

## **Historic, Archive Document**

Do not assume content reflects current scientific knowledge, policies, or practices.





United States Department of Agriculture

Reserve  
aTE304  
A73  
2016

# Blue Range Primitive Area Trail Guide

Apache-Sitgreaves National Forests

For use with the USFS Blue Range  
Wilderness and Primitive Area Map or  
applicable USGS Topographic maps



Forest  
Service

Southwestern  
Region

RG-R3-01-11  
July 2016

In accordance with Federal civil rights law and U.S. Department of Agriculture (USDA) civil rights regulations and policies, the USDA, its Agencies, offices, and employees, and institutions participating in or administering USDA programs are prohibited from discriminating based on race, color, national origin, religion, sex, gender identity (including gender expression), sexual orientation, disability, age, marital status, family/parental status, income derived from a public assistance program, political beliefs, or reprisal or retaliation for prior civil rights activity, in any program or activity conducted or funded by USDA (not all bases apply to all programs). Remedies and complaint filing deadlines vary by program or incident.

Persons with disabilities who require alternative means of communication for program information (e.g., Braille, large print, audiotape, American Sign Language, etc.) should contact the responsible Agency or USDA's TARGET Center at (202) 720-2600 (voice and TTY) or contact USDA through the Federal Relay Service at (800) 877-8339. Additionally, program information may be made available in languages other than English.

To file a program discrimination complaint, complete the USDA Program Discrimination Complaint Form, AD-3027, found online at [http://www.ascr.usda.gov/complaint\\_filing\\_cust.html](http://www.ascr.usda.gov/complaint_filing_cust.html) and at any USDA office or write a letter addressed to USDA and provide in the letter all of the information requested in the form. To request a copy of the complaint form, call (866) 632-9992. Submit your completed form or letter to USDA by: (1) mail: U.S. Department of Agriculture, Office of the Assistant Secretary for Civil Rights, 1400 Independence Avenue, SW, Washington, D.C. 20250-9410; (2) fax: (202) 690-7442; or (3) email: [program.intake@usda.gov](mailto:program.intake@usda.gov).

USDA is an equal opportunity provider, employer and lender.

# Welcome to the Blue Range Primitive Area

The Blue Range Primitive Area, located on the Alpine and Clifton Ranger Districts of the Apache-Sitgreaves National Forests, is intended for those seeking a truly primitive outdoor experience.

The Primitive Area is required by law to be managed the same as congressionally designated wilderness, and provide an experience of personal challenge where you can meet and live with nature on its own terms. There are no trail improvements such as bridges to make travel easier. Trails are maintained to a less developed standard, may be more difficult to follow than those in other areas, and are marked (often infrequently) with faded axe blazes that may be difficult to locate in some areas.

The 199,502 acres of the Blue Range Primitive Area remain one of Arizona's wildest and lightly visited places. This is a land of rugged mountains, steep canyons, and stark ridges that is at the same time remote yet accessible through an extensive trail system.

"The Blue", as it is known colloquially, contains the eastern end of the Mogollon Rim, a spectacular escarpment that marks the southern terminus of the Colorado Plateau, identified by author Zane Grey as the "Tonto Rim" in his novels. The Rim itself is a unique geological and ecological feature, especially where the spectacular Blue River Canyon cuts through the Rim.

The Blue River contains habitats rich with wildlife as it meanders its way through the deep canyon and eventually joins the San Francisco River. Elevations in the Blue range from 4,500' along the river to 9,355 feet atop Blue Peak. This diversified topography and elevation provide for a wide variety of wildlife species.

Most trails on The Blue run a course between canyon rim and canyon floor. This is a direct result of their heritage as stock trails, since moving cattle usually meant herding them into high pastures during the summer and returning them to the canyons when snow covered the highlands.

Providing access between these main travel ways are connector trails that often prove handy in making possible loop hikes of a day or less in duration possible by leaving via one main trail and returning by another. In some cases they add the option of a change in scenery when the ridge seems too exposed and hot or the canyon gets too wet and wild.

On the following pages, you will find general information regarding Primitive Area rules and regulations, access, safety, wildlife, "Leave No Trace" ethics, and the colorful history of the Blue Range. Finally, you will find specific information about hiking and equestrian trails specific to the Blue Range Primitive Area.

U.S. Department of Agriculture  
National Agricultural Library  
FEB 22 2017  
Received  
Acquisitions and Metadata Branch

## **\*\*IMPORTANT SAFETY NOTICE\*\***

The Northwest portion of the Blue Range Primitive Area has been affected by the Wallow Fire of June 2011. The area is open to public use and entry - HOWEVER – some trails may not have been assessed or recently maintained for hazards associated with the fire, so plan your trip accordingly, and call the Alpine Ranger District for the latest information.

Please keep in mind that the area may be affected by the wildfire for many years to come, and continue to be prone to hazards such as falling trees, flooding and burned out stump holes. The environment you will be entering is highly susceptible to rainstorms and wind events. Any time you enter the forest, you should be aware of your environment and changing weather conditions.

You are responsible for your own safety! Always look up, look down, and look all around. Additional information on the other recreational opportunities and resources of the Alpine and Clifton Ranger Districts may be obtained by contacting the respective district offices:

## **Primitive Area Restrictions**

Motorized and mechanized vehicles and equipment of all kinds (including bicycles) are prohibited within the Primitive area. This includes all motor vehicles, motorboats, motorized equipment, bicycles, hang gliders, wagons, carts, portage wheels, and the landing of aircraft including helicopters.

The maximum group size for overnight camping in the Blue Range Primitive Area is 25 persons per campsite. The maximum number of pack and riding stock per group in the Blue Range Primitive Area is 25 persons and 35 livestock per group.

## **Practice Leave No Trace Outdoor Ethics**

As growing numbers of people seek the beauty and exhilaration of outdoor recreation, our collective mark on the environment becomes more damaging. Techniques to minimize these impacts are incorporated into the seven principles of Leave No Trace Outdoor Ethics, which serve as a guide to minimum impact hiking, stock use, and camping in the Blue Range Mountains.

The member-driven Leave No Trace Center for Outdoor Ethics teaches people how to enjoy the outdoors responsibly. This copyrighted information has been reprinted with permission from the Leave No Trace Center for Outdoor Ethics: [www.LNT.org](http://www.LNT.org)

### **The Leave No Trace Seven Principles:**

#### **1. Plan Ahead and Prepare**

Know the regulations and special concerns for the area you'll visit.

Prepare for extreme weather, hazards, and emergencies.

Schedule your trip to avoid times of high use.

Visit in small groups when possible. Consider splitting larger groups into smaller groups.

Repackage food to minimize waste.

Use a map and compass to eliminate the use of marking paint, rock cairns or flagging.

#### **2. Travel and Camp on Durable Surfaces**

Durable surfaces include established trails and campsites, rock, gravel, dry grasses or snow. Protect riparian areas by camping at least 200 feet from lakes and streams.

Good campsites are found, not made. Altering a site is not necessary.

In popular areas:

- Concentrate use on existing trails and campsites.
- Walk single file in the middle of the trail, even when wet or muddy.
- Keep campsites small. Focus activity in areas where vegetation is absent.

In pristine areas:

- Disperse use to prevent the creation of campsites and trails.
- Avoid places where impacts are just beginning.

### **3. Dispose of Waste Properly**

Pack it in, pack it out. Inspect your campsite and rest areas for trash or spilled foods. Pack out all trash, leftover food and litter.

Deposit solid human waste in catholes dug 6 to 8 inches deep, at least 200 feet from water, camp and trails. Cover and disguise the cathole when finished.

Pack out toilet paper and hygiene products.

To wash yourself or your dishes, carry water 200 feet away from streams or lakes and use small amounts of biodegradable soap. Scatter strained dishwater.

### **4. Leave What You Find**

Preserve the past: examine, but do not touch cultural or historic structures and artifacts.

Leave rocks, plants and other natural objects as you find them.

Avoid introducing or transporting non-native species.

Do not build structures, furniture, or dig trenches.

### **5. Minimize Campfire Impacts**

Campfires can cause lasting impacts to the backcountry. Use a lightweight stove for cooking and enjoy a candle lantern for light.

Where fires are permitted, use established fire rings, fire pans, or mound fires.

Keep fires small. Only use sticks from the ground that can be broken by hand.

Burn all wood and coals to ash, put out campfires completely, then scatter cool ashes.

### **6. Respect Wildlife**

Observe wildlife from a distance. Do not follow or approach them.

Never feed animals. Feeding wildlife damages their health, alters natural behaviors, and exposes them to predators and other dangers.

Protect wildlife and your food by storing rations and trash securely.

Control pets at all times, or leave them at home.

Avoid wildlife during sensitive times: mating, nesting, raising young, or winter.

### **7. Be Considerate of Other Visitors**

Respect other visitors and protect the quality of their experience.

Be courteous. Yield to other users on the trail.

Step to the downhill side of the trail when encountering pack stock.

Take breaks and camp away from trails and other visitors.

Let nature's sounds prevail. Avoid loud voices and noise.

## Wildlife

The Blue Range Mountains are home to abundant wildlife. Bird watchers visiting the area may get a chance to see a Mexican spotted owl, Arizona woodpecker, Bald Eagle or more common birds such as Stellar's jay, Ash-throated flycatcher, Western Tanager and several species of mockingbirds and hummingbirds.

Game species include elk, mule deer, wild turkeys, and javalina. Upland game birds include Gambel's, scaled and Mearns' quail, turkey and if you are there at the right time, blue grouse can be seen at the higher elevations. Black bears, mountain lions, and Mexican gray wolves are found throughout the Blue as well.

While conflicts with wildlife are generally rare, these animals may be dangerous if startled, surprised or if they feel you are a threat to their young or to their food. Hike with a partner and make some noise to avoid surprising wildlife. Conversational voices work well.

If you do have an encounter with wildlife, keep a few things in mind:

- Keep children close at all times.
- Stay together in a group.
- Do not run. Running may trigger a chase instinct in some predators.
- Make noise to scare the animal off.
- In the rare instance of being attacked by a predatory animal, fight back.
- If you are hiking with a dog, keep in mind that you must maintain control of your pet at all times in the national forest and that pets may attract wildlife, including large carnivores.

## Be Bear Aware!

*Ursus americanus*, more commonly known as the North American black bear, makes its home throughout the Blue Range Primitive Area. In order to minimize the possibility of bear/human encounters, visitors should take certain precautions while we are visitors in black bear country:

### BEAR NECESSITIES

- Always hang food in a bear-bag, a line suspended between two trees at a distance of four to five feet from either, and suspended a minimum of 10-12 feet from the ground.
- Food and scented items such as toothpaste or deodorant should not be taken into, or stored in, a tent.
- Place kitchen areas and hang food at least 100 feet downwind of campsites.
- Avoid food with strong odors.
- NEVER burn or bury trash or leftover food-no matter how hot the fire, some residual odors and unburned waste will remain to attract bears and other animals into popular camping areas. Hang trash the same way as food and always **PACK OUT WHAT YOU PACK IN.**



## Trail Etiquette

- Avoid using wet or muddy trails.
- Keep to the right side of the trail. Save the left for passing.
- Always announce your intentions when passing someone from behind.
- When in a group, travel single file and allow room for other users to pass.
- Leave all gates as you found them. If a sign says “Keep Gate Closed,” always do so.
- Hikers always yield to saddle stock; when meeting horseback riders, step aside from the trail, preferably downhill, and talk in a normal voice to the riders. This calms the horses.
- When traveling cross-country, spread out, avoid paths, and walk on rocks or snow when possible.
- Never restrain a saddle or pack animal for longer than one hour within 200 feet of a water source, or tie an animal directly to a tree for more than one hour. Animals should be moved sooner if damage to the tree, soil, or vegetation at the base of the tree is occurring.
- Tie stock so they cannot chew on tree bark or eat the leaves of woody vegetation. A hitch line between trees is recommended. Wrap trees under rope to protect bark.
- Break up all horse manure or hay in camps, at trailheads, and in loading areas. Carry equipment to scatter it and smooth the areas.
- Practice minimum impact techniques of tying, grazing, and travel. Lead rather than herd unrestrained stock to help avoid erosion.

- Travel at a safe speed and be especially careful when visibility is limited.
- Remember that trail stock can be intimidating to other trail users, so communicate to those you meet.

## Road Access

Access to trailheads is by way of forest roads, some of which may be lower-development roads that receive infrequent maintenance. During the winter and periods of heavy rainfall, some roads may be impassable or difficult to drive.

Some higher elevation roads on the Alpine district may not be passable until May, depending on the winter snowfall and soft muddy roads following snowmelt. Avoid becoming stranded and causing resource damage to these roads by waiting until the road surface has hardened.

Before you set out, always contact the district office where a trailhead is located for more information on road conditions.

## General Backcountry Safety

- Weather conditions are variable throughout the year. Be prepared for changing conditions. Packing a rain and wind shell is a necessity at higher elevations during the summer.
- Thunderstorms often develop during summer afternoons. High elevation trails are often quite cool, especially when shaded. Lower elevation trails may be quite hot.
- Be alert to your physical condition, stay hydrated, and know the signs of both heat illness and hypothermia.
- Always let someone know where you are going and when you will be back. Use trail registers when available.
- Know your own ability and the abilities of those in your group. Travel at the pace of the slowest member of the group to prevent illness or injury.

## Altitude Sickness

The air is thinner at higher elevations, meaning that due to reduced pressure, the air at higher elevations is less oxygen rich than at lower elevations. This means you may feel differently at high elevations than at the elevation to which you are accustomed.

Be alert to how your body responds to altitude change. Altitude sickness—also known as acute mountain sickness (AMS)—is most often encountered beginning around 8,000 feet (the town of Alpine is just over 8,000 feet). Altitude sickness can affect anyone, regardless of fitness level. If you feel you are experiencing the symptoms of AMS, the best treatment is to stop and rest.

While resting, breathe deeply and consume quick energy foods such as fruit juice, dried fruit, energy bars or candy. It is also important to stay hydrated. If your symptoms do not subside, start back down to lower elevations, being careful to breathe deeply and not exert yourself.

At elevations higher than those found in the Blue Range, altitude sickness can become very severe and even be life threatening. If symptoms continue to persist once you've reached lower elevations, consider medical attention.

### Symptoms of Altitude Sickness May Include:

- Headache, often severe (this is the most common and often the first symptom of AMS, but often is also a sign of dehydration from breathing thin, dry air at high elevations) combined with:
- Listlessness, drowsiness, and fatigue
- Lightheaded feeling or dizziness
- Loss of appetite
- Nausea or vomiting

## Hypothermia

Hypothermia is not just a cold weather concern and should not be dismissed, even during the summer season. Most cases of hypothermia occur during summertime and with temperatures well above freezing.

Hypothermia is the lowering of the body's core temperature. It often strikes summer hikers who are exposed to wet and/or windy conditions, both of which rob the body's core of heat.

Fatigue plays a major role in robbing the body of warmth during these conditions as well. If you are growing tired from your hike and are hiking in windy conditions, you may be at risk, especially if you are wet from rain, snow, or sweat. Avoid cotton clothing except in warm, dry environments.

Cotton, when wet, does not insulate. In fact, it can rob the body of vital warmth. Choose wool or synthetic materials for base layers in most conditions.

### Symptoms of Hypothermia May Include:

- shivering (first and warning sign)
- fatigue or drowsiness
- loss of coordination
- incoherence, mumbling, stammering
- hallucinations (advanced symptom)
- pale appearance
- a warming sensation (can be a sign of very serious hypothermia, check other symptoms carefully)
- goose bumps on skin

### Treatment for Hypothermia:

If you detect or suspect hypothermia, taking several quick steps are essential. A drop of 1 or 2 degrees of core body temperature can be very serious.

- Body temperature decreases of 3 degrees or more can be fatal. Recognizing the onset of hypothermia quickly and treating it effectively may save a life.
- Warming a hypothermia victim is crucial, since they cannot produce enough heat on their own.
- Get the victim out of the cold, wind and/or rain quickly.
- Give warm nonalcoholic drinks and high energy foods to the victim.
- Get the victim out of any wet clothes and into dry clothes.
- Direct skin-to-skin body contact is an effective technique for re-warming a hypothermia victim.
- Blankets, winter clothing and sleeping bags are good tools to employ as well, but remember, these items are designed to trap body heat, not produce heat of their own for re-warming.
- The best treatment is prevention. Wear a hat, as 40 percent of your body heat is lost through the head. Be prepared for the conditions and try to stay dry.

## Lightning

Afternoon thunderstorms producing lightning strikes are common in the high elevations of the Blue Range Mountains. These storms can develop and move fast. Get a local weather report before you go.

You can access weather reports and forecasts from the Apache-Sitgreaves Web site ([www.fs.fed.us/r3/asnf](http://www.fs.fed.us/r3/asnf)) and click on "current conditions."

During threatening weather avoid lakes, meadows or open areas, exposed ridgelines, fence lines and peaks. Do not stand near a large tree or other tall feature. Avoid standing in wet areas. If caught in a lightning storm, assume a crouch position with your feet flat on the ground. If you have a camping mattress or are carrying a pack, put that on the ground below you and assume the crouch position on top of the item. These items can insulate you from a nearby strike.

## The Essentials to Bring With You Into the Backcountry

- Map - This guide is intended for use with the USFS Blue Range Wilderness and Primitive Area Map or USGS Quad Maps
- Compass - Remember, a GPS unit does not replace a compass in case of malfunction or battery failure
- Emergency Whistle
- Rain Gear
- Waterproof Matches
- Fire Starter or Tinder Kit
- First Aid Kit
- Flashlight With Spare Batteries
- Pocket Knife or Multi-Tool
- Extra Food (such as energy bars)
- Extra Clothing
- Space Blanket or Lightweight Emergency Shelter
- Sunscreen and Sunglasses
- Insect Repellent
- Adequate Drinking Water - Or a reliable purification method such as water filters or iodine tablets

## If You Should Become Lost . . .

- Stay calm. The most important thing you can do is to keep calm, take a few deep breaths, and stay positive. Remember the acronym “STOP” (stop, think, observe, and plan).
- Sit down, have something to eat or drink, and assess the situation. Think back to when you last knew your location . . . what have you done since?
- Backtrack to that last known location. Look for landmarks. Use your map and compass if you have them and don’t second guess your compass.
- Blow a whistle if you have one and others may be in the area. If you are still lost, think about staying put and waiting for help.
- Most lost hikers are found within 24 hours. Think about shelter, staying warm and dry, and staying hydrated. Keep your energy up by snacking.
- ALWAYS let others know where you are going and when you’ll return before you leave so they will know where to look if you are lost. Always sign in at trailhead registers and stick to your planned route.

## Trail Ratings

Trail ratings take into account the length of trail, terrain, and elevation change. What may be rated as a moderate hike at lower elevations may be more challenging at higher elevations. Know your limits and ability, and take into account your physical condition.

## Seasonal Considerations

- Most of the trails in the Blue Range Primitive Area are accessible for hikers and equestrians from May through October. Lower elevation trails may have an extended season beyond these months.
- During the winter season, winter hikers, snowshoers, and back-country skiers should consider local weather and inquire at the ranger stations or checking the Apache-Sitgreaves National Forest web site at [www.fs.fed.us/r3/asnf](http://www.fs.fed.us/r3/asnf). Links to current weather conditions, road conditions, trail information, and general recreational information may be found there.
- Be aware that many forest roads are not passable until late April or early May as winter snowmelt makes the roads very soft and muddy. Use common sense when traveling to trailheads.
- Call ahead for more information. Getting lost, getting stuck and being stranded on a forest road in early spring are not pleasant experiences.
- Many cell phones do not work in the area, and those that do often have spotty reception deep within the national forest.
- Highway 191 south of Alpine, also known as the Coronado Trail, is not snow-plowed during winter storms or on nights and weekends. Use caution traveling during winter in this area.

# The Story of "The Blue"

## The Blue Range Mountains

People who are familiar with the Blue Range Primitive Area often refer to it colloquially as "The Blue," the same way many people refer to the Bob Marshall Wilderness in Idaho and Montana as "The Bob," and others refer to Yellowstone National Park as just "Yellowstone."

This place has that same kind of special charisma.

The Blue exerts such magnetism for a number of reasons. Some come here to soak up the western mystique that they feel remains hidden like some lost mother lode in an area where some of the most famous characters of the old west once rode. Others come because of the deep solitude there is to be found here among the forests and canyons of this remote and little traveled region. Many appreciate the natural diversity harbored within the 5,000 feet of elevation differential encompassed by the primitive area boundaries. But that's not all. There's scenic beauty here too and a variety of wild animals that range from mountain lions to water shrews, from hummingbirds to bald eagles.

In 1540, the Spanish explorer Francisco Vasquez de Coronado and his party were the first Europeans known to travel through the area, bestowing the "Blue Range" its name, and describing it as a huge trackless wilderness. Mountain man James Ohio Pattie visited the Blue Range in 1825, and marveled at the number of clear running streams, lush vegetation of the canyons, and plentiful wildlife.

In 1905 a U.S. Forest Service employee by the name of W.H.B. Kent described the rugged mountains, steep canyons, and stark ridges of the Blue Range as "no disenable mountain range, but rather a chaotic mass of very precipitous hills".

In 1909, a young Yale graduate and future conservation icon by the name of Aldo Leopold joined the U.S. Forest Service, and received his first field assignment on the Apache National Forest, where he worked until 1911. Leopold and his reconnaissance crew were assigned to survey in the Blue Range.

One day while working along the nearby Black River, west of the primitive area boundary, Leopold and his co-workers shot a wolf, and he reached her side in time to see "the cold green fire" dying from her eyes. Later in life, his views on the place of predators in the natural world would change dramatically, and he recounted this incident with regret in his "A Sand County Almanac" essay, Thinking Like a Mountain.

Over a decade later, Leopold would recommend to the Forest Service that a large undeveloped are of the neighboring Gila National Forest in New Mexico should be managed as a wilderness. In 1924, his idea became official, and the Gila Wilderness became the first designated wilderness area. This administrative designation was the first step in what later became congressionally designated wilderness beginning with the Wilderness Act of 1964.

## High-Low, East-West

With elevations that vary from 9,100 down to 4,500 feet, climate and vegetation within the Primitive Area is as diverse as the topography. Summer temperatures may top 100 degrees in the canyons, while temperatures in the higher country will be in the 70's and 80's.

The cool, moist plateau above the Rim is covered with spruce, white fir and Douglas fir. Lower elevations may have mixed conifer on north slopes and ponderosa pine on the warmer benches and south slopes. Pinion and juniper stands occur below the ponderosa pine.

Canyon bottoms are like ribbons of greenery with stands of aspen, oak, cottonwood alder, sycamore and Arizona black walnut.

In addition to the natural diversity offered between high and low areas within The Blue there is also a marked difference between the habitats on the east and west sides of the area. Areas of comparable elevation of the primitive area on the west are slightly higher and wetter than those on the east. On the west, elevations range as high as 9,300 feet and there are large areas of alpine spruce-fir forests. On the east the high country is mostly covered with the same sort of ponderosa pine forests which cover the middle elevations of the west Blue. High desert extends farther up the ridges and slopes of the east Blue, while streams on the west hold water for longer into the year and some flow year around.

One of the most impressive geologic features of the Primitive Area is the Blue River Canyon, which carves a path from the heights of the Blue Range Mountains and down through the edge of the Mogollon Rim, eventually merging with the San Francisco River.

## **The Last Management Area of Its Kind**

In 1933 the Secretary of Agriculture established the Blue Range Primitive Area to be managed for primitive uses and to maintain the wildness of that area. Its status as a National Forest Primitive Area is an administrative designation that was widely used prior to passage of the Wilderness Act of 1964. The Blue now has the distinction of being the last designated primitive area in the National Forest system, and is legally mandated to be managed the same as congressionally designated wilderness.

Established in the early 1930's, National Forest System primitive areas were one of the forerunners to congressional wilderness designation,

and were administrative designations under the discretion and approval of the Chief of the Forest Service. Their purpose was to maintain National Forest areas where "primitive areas of transportation, habitation, and subsistence were to be maintained."

By the late 1930's, 76 primitive areas had been set aside to be maintained for public education and recreation. All of the original primitive areas have since been included into the National Wilderness Preservation System- except for the Blue. Because of this, the Blue Primitive Area is now the last of its kind; the solitary remaining designated National Forest Primitive Area.

The Blue Range Primitive area, along with recommended additions, was formally recommended to Congress by the president of the United States in the early 1970's. Congress has not acted upon the full proposal and the Blue was not included in the Arizona Wilderness Bill of 1984. Therefore, the Apache-Sitgreaves National Forest is legally mandated to manage the primitive area and those recommended additions as wilderness until further congressional action is taken.



## The Trails

The Blue is crisscrossed with a large number of trails, many of which can trace their history to old game trails or prehistoric travel routes of the ancient Mogollon peoples. Those trails were used and improved and then maintained for many years by cowboys to provide routes for moving livestock between pastures and water sources. Some of the trails on The Blue were built as access routes to lookout towers and other sites used by forest rangers and fire fighters. Many others came into being as access routes to and from remote homesteads erected by hardy pioneers.

Today, recreationists are replacing livestock, cowboys, and forest rangers as the major users of these forest pathways. In some cases, the trails have been rebuilt so that they can better serve their new clients. Those improvements have consisted mostly of constructing switchbacks to lessen grades. Some trails have also been pulled back from streambeds to protect vulnerable streamside vegetation and better withstand the effects of floods.

The Blue Range is an area that will challenge you physically and emotionally with its solitude and beautiful scenery. And who knows, maybe by chance you will follow in the exact footsteps of Coronado as he looked for the Seven Cities of Cibola while traveling through the Blue over 400 years ago.

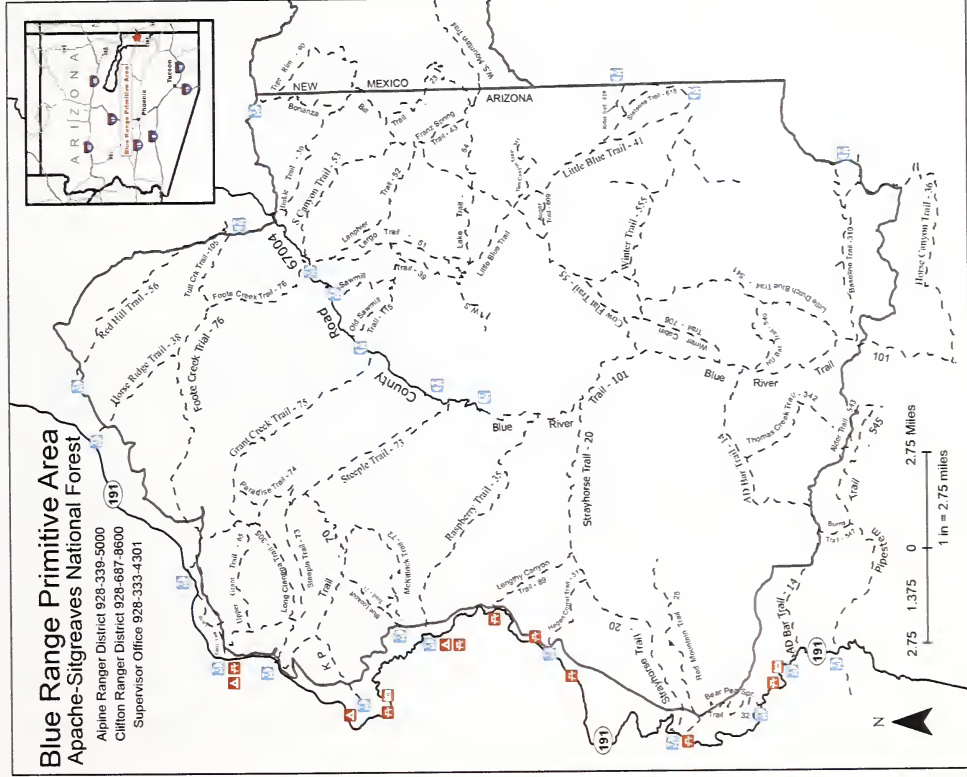
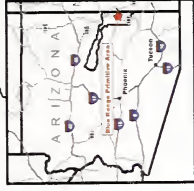


# Blue Range Primitive Area Apache-Sitgreaves National Forest

Alpine Ranger District 928-339-5000

Clifton Ranger District 928-687-8600

Supervisor Office 928-333-4301



**WARNING:** Do not use this map for wilderness travel. It is intended for general information only. Detailed maps are available from the Forest Service and outdoor retailers.

## Part 1: Blue Range Primitive Area Northeast Trails -

### Alpine Ranger District East of the Blue River

Bonanza Bill Trail # 23 .....	15
Cow Flat Trail # 55 .....	17
Franz Spring Trail # 43 .....	19
Hinkle Spring Trail # 30 .....	21
Lanphier Trail # 52 .....	23
Largo Trail # 51 .....	25
S-Canyon Trail # 53 .....	27
Sawmill Trail # 39 .....	29
Telephone Ridge Trail # 42 .....	31
Tige Rim Trail # 90 .....	32
WS Lake Trail # 54 .....	34

### Contact information:

Alpine Ranger District  
 Apache-Sitgreaves National Forests  
 P.O. Box 469 (mailing address)  
 42634 Hwy. 180/191 (physical address)  
 Alpine, AZ 85920  
 Voice: (928) 339-5000  
 TTY: (928) 339-4566

## Bonanza Bill Trail # 23



Length: 12.1 miles

Rating: Moderate

Use: Light to Moderate

Season: April through November

Elevation: 7,040 to 8400 feet

USGS Maps: Blue

### Description:

Bonanza Bill Trail is one of the main trails offering access to the remote eastern reaches of the Blue Primitive Area. In addition to traversing a good portion of this country on its own, Bonanza Bill serves as a connector between several other trails leading into this beautiful, wild country.

The trail is named for Bonanza Bill Point, which stands out as one of the more prominent features along the route. This easy to follow pathway snakes along a divide that separates the canyons of the Blue and San Francisco Rivers. It sets a course through ponderosa pine stands so open and clear of undergrowth that in places someone from the brushy forests of the east might swear it is maintained by crews of meticulous gardeners. Of course, that's not true; openness is a natural characteristic of a ponderosa pine forest, especially one that is as dry as this. That openness also makes the surrounding scenery easier to see from the trail. Views include overlooks of Steeple and Tige Canyons as well as the larger canyons of the Blue and San Francisco Rivers.

This trail also roughly follows the boundary between Arizona and New Mexico, and in one place crosses that line into the Blue Range Wilderness (administered by the Gila National Forest) for two and a half miles visit to Arizona's eastern neighbor. In this vicinity you'll get some good views of Devil's Monument, a prominent landform in New Mexico. Another interesting area along the trail called Hell's Hole is quite a bit closer to the trailhead. Here dwarfed and deformed ponderosas hold to a precarious existence among exposed layers of white rock.

Watch for evidence of black bears in this remote area. As a matter of fact, the sign marking the trailhead usually has teeth and claw marks put there by resident bruins. No one knows for sure why these shy brutes chew on signs, but the conventional wisdom is that their unnatural shape makes them stand out from their natural surroundings enough to serve as excellent bulletin boards for bears to mark their territorial boundaries. Trail side signs that have been splintered or even ripped apart certainly make the point that bears live in the area and you should take special care with food and garbage.

**Notes:**

May be combined with Tige Rim Trail # 90 to make a scenic loop day-hike 10.9 miles in length.

Steeple Canyon has pools of water except during the dry seasons of the year.

Hinkle Spring, located one quarter mile down the adjoining Hinkle Trail is a dependable spring.

WS Lake provides water for stock except during the dry season.

No mechanized vehicles (including mountain bikes) are permitted within the Primitive Area.

**Trail Log (in miles):**

- 0.0 Trailhead on Pueblo Park Road.
- 0.9 First Junction with Tige Rim Trail # 90. Bonanza Bill takes a sharp right at this point.
- 3.7 Junction with Hinkle Spring Trail, Hell's Hole area
- 4.5 Second junction with Tige Rim Trail # 90
- 5.9 Junction with Cow Flat Trail, # 55.
- 6.2 Bonanza Bill Point on right.
- 8.3 View of Devils Monument to east.
- 8.5 Trail goes through gate in New Mexico State Line fence.
- 11.1 Trail crosses back into Arizona.
- 12.1 Junction with Franz Spring Trail.

**Access:**

Drive 3 miles east of Alpine on US 180 to Forest Road 281 (Blue River Road). Turn south and follow this scenic back road 20.7 miles to the Pueblo Park Road (Forest Road 232). The Bonanza Bill Trailhead is 4.7 miles east on this dirt road just before it crosses the New Mexico state line. A wood fenced corral serves as a landmark.

# Cow Flat Trail # 55



Length: 12.5 miles

Rating: Strenuous to moderate

Use: Light

Season: April through November

Elevation: 7,760 feet to 4,800 feet

USGS Maps: Bear Mountain, Dutch Blue, Alma Mesa

NOTE: This trail is also known as Bear Valley Trail # 55 on the part which traverses the Clifton Ranger District (see Part 3- Blue Range Primitive Area South Trails)

## Description:

Cow Flat Trail is sufficiently long and passes through so many different areas that it is known by several names. Alternately it is referred to as the Bear Valley, Government Mesa and Ladron Springs Trail. Actually, it leads to or through each of those different forest locations.

That portion of the trail which lies within the boundary of the Alpine District winds along the top of the Mogollon Rim through mature park-like stands of ponderosa pine alternating with pinion-juniper woodlands on the high plateaus of Cow and Campbell Flats. Along this stretch of the trail it connects with several other backcountry trails that offer almost comprehensive access to this diverse area.

The Cow Flat portion of Trail # 55 is well defined and easy to follow. As the trail traverses Bear Valley and crosses Government Mesa, it becomes more difficult to follow. While you're keeping an eye out for blazes and rock cairns you might notice the remains of an old wagon and a few outbuildings that bear testament to the fact that this valley was farmed during the turn of the century.

After the trail leaves Bear Valley, it's as rough and tough as three cowboys who once lived here. Pappy (who lived in a cave), Smokey (who loved his mules), and Buster (a cowboy stone mason) added a bit of their spirit to this wild area. You may find yourself calling on them to help you find your way.

At Auger Tank a well-used game trail heads down the drainage. Don't follow this trail. Look across the creek to a couple of crude corrals where Trail # 55 heads up out of the drainage to the west. The going is rough here but some excellent views provide a payoff. Another stretch that is hard to find, especially when coming from Blue River, is where a steep descent enters Sycamore Canyon across from another old corral.

Below Ladron Springs the trail hugs a bedrock slope across a steep chute where pack animals once needed to be unpacked to cross. One unfortunate animal fell to its death here in 1980. In 1983 a forest trail crew blasted a wider passage to make a safer passage for those using this trail on horseback.

However, by 2007 the blasted surface had been reclaimed by nature, once more posing a hazard to stock animals. In 2009 the Alpine Trail Crew built a rock retaining wall to re-establish the trail tread, but it's unknown how long it might be until natural erosion processes in the Blue will reclaim this as well.

A constant and powerful water source, Ladron Springs emerges at the base of two large trees with inter-twined trunks, one a walnut, the other a cottonwood. . Several small waterfalls mark its drainage between the spring and trail's end at the Blue River.

### **Notes:**

This trail will require good route-finding skills from Bear Valley to the Blue River.

No mechanized vehicles (including mountain bikes) are permitted in the Primitive Area.

### **Trail Log (in miles):**

- 0.0 Junction with Bonanza Bill Trail # 23 at Bonanza Flat.
- 0.7 Junction with S Canyon Trail # 53.
- 1.2 Junction with Franz Spring # 43.
- 1.4 Junction with Lanphier Trail # 52.
- 1.6 Junction with a shortcut trail to Franz Spring.
- 3.6 Junction with WS Lake Trail # 54.

- 5.2 Junction with Little Blue Trail # 41 at corral at the lower end of Bear Valley. Elevation 6,600 feet.
- 5.3 Bear Valley Cabin.
- 5.4 Trail heads west out of Bear Valley.
- 6.4 High point on trail at junction with an unmaintained trail to Little Blue Creek.
- 8.9 Rock cairn marks unmaintained trail to the south to Winter Cabin.
- 9.9 Auger Canyon, another unmaintained trail, leads from here to Winter Cabin.
- 11.1 Sycamore Canyon at old corral.
- 11.6 Ladron Spring.
- 12.1 Blue River.

### **Access:**

Drive 3 miles east of Alpine on US 180 to Forest Road 281 (Blue River Road). Turn south 20.7 miles to the Pueblo Park Road (Forest Road 232) and then east 4.7 miles to the Bonanza Bill Trailhead.

Backcountry Access: This trail is accessible via a number of other northeastern Blue Range Trails (See the trail log).

# Franz Spring Trail # 43



Length: 3 miles to state line (9 miles total)

Rating: Moderate

Use: Light

Season: April through October

Elevation: 7,360 feet to 8,400 feet

USGS Maps: Blue SE

## Description:

This eastern Blue Range trail is an old route for moving livestock that serves as another link in the maze of interconnecting trails used by cattlemen and recreationists alike. It provides a connecting route between the Cow Flat Trail # 55 and the WS Lake Trail # 54, both of which are major travel ways providing access to extensive areas of forage for livestock and scores of miles of trails for forest recreationists.

About a quarter mile from the point at which the Franz Spring Trail branches off from the Cow Flat Trail # 55, an old cabin stands as a testament to the area's long grazing history. Cowboys still take up residence here while they keep the herd grazing in this area.

The shallow drainage that the trail cuts just before intersecting the WS Lake Trail # 54 has a name that also adds a bit of western ambience to the area. It is named Whoa Canyon for the steep gorge it becomes just a short distance downstream - a very good place to say, "Whoa".

The Franz Spring Trail traverses some of the higher country in the East Blue Range. There is even a stand of aspen near the point where it joins the WS Lake Trail. This trail adds a number of possibilities for loop hikes or shortcuts to just about any trip in this area, or it's worth a visit for its own merits.

The Franz Spring Trail # 43 continues into New Mexico, and Bear Canyon in the Blue Range Wilderness (administered by the Gila National Forest) leaving Arizona and the Alpine District. On the New Mexico side, the trail is known as the WS Mountain Trail, and continues another 6 miles through Bear Canyon to the Pueblo Park Campground.

## Notes:

No mechanized vehicles (including mountain bikes) are permitted in the Primitive Area.

**Trail Log (in miles):**

- 0.0 Junction of Franz Spring Trail # 43 and Cow Flat Trail # 55.
- 0.2 Franz Spring on right, old cabin.
- 1.1 Springs and/or running water intermittently.
- 2.0 Junction with WS Lake Trail # 54 and Bonanza Bill Trail # 23.
- 3.0 New Mexico/Arizona state line, trail enters Blue Range Wilderness and descends Bear Canyon to the east.
- 9.0 Pueblo Park Campground

**Access:**

There is no direct road to this trail on the Arizona side - backcountry access is via Franz Spring Trail # 43, Bonanza Bill Trail # 23, the WS Lake Trail # 54, and Lanphier Trail # 52. For further information see guides for these trails.

From New Mexico: 27 miles north of Glenwood, NM on Highway US 180, turn east on FR 232, Pueblo Park Road and continue 5.5 miles to Pueblo Park Campground. Trail is located on the south side of FR 232.



## Hinkle Spring Trail # 30



Length: 4.5 miles

Rating: Moderate - Strenuous

Use: Light

Season: May through October

Elevation: 5,700 feet -7,220 feet

USGS Maps: Blue

### Description:

Good views of the Blue River Canyon and the mountains that surround it combine with the moderate length of this trail to make it an excellent day hike into the remote eastern reaches of the Blue Primitive Area.

If you've got more time to spend, Hinkle Springs Trail also provides access to a number of other trails in this little visited area. By combining these interesting and varied routes you can put together overnights, long backpacks, or through hikes to a shuttle placed at one of two or three other trailheads along the canyon floor or canyon rim.

Most people start a hike along this trail at its lower access point located along the Blue River, beginning on private property (be considerate of private landowners). The trailhead can be difficult to locate.

From this point the trail climbs, sometimes gradually, sometimes steeply, to the canyon's east rim. Initially, it follows the course of Cow Canyon, one of the major side canyons along this stretch of the Blue.

A short distance into the hike the trail quits the canyon for the rocky high ground that separates Cow Creek and Steeple Creek. Here one has good views to the west, northwest, and southwest that include many of the major features of the Blue Range and Blue River Canyon. As you climb the switchbacks and look for blazes or cairns along hard to find stretches of the trail, you'll want to take plenty of time out to enjoy the scenery.

As with virtually all such trails in this area, Hinkle Springs Trail was built and is still used to move cattle, in this case between the canyon floor and upland pastures above the rim. It is named for Hinkle Springs, a dependable water source near its junction with the Bonanza Bill Trail in ponderosa pine country at the canyon rim.

**Notes:**

The trailhead on FR 281 may be difficult to locate, and begins on private property – please be considerate of private landowners.

Hinkle Spring is a reliable water source.

No mechanized vehicles (including mountain bikes) are permitted in the Primitive Area.

**Trail Log (in miles):**

- 0.0 Trailhead at FR 281 (Blue River Road).
- 1.7 Good views to south.
- 2.5 Trail crosses intermittent stream.
- 3.6 Trail crosses streambed that becomes canyon on left.
- 4.3 Hinkle Spring; wood fence corral on right.
- 4.5 Trail terminus at junction with Bonanza Bill Trail # 23.

**Access:**

Drive 3.5 miles east of Alpine on US 180 to Forest Road 281 (Blue River Road). Turn south and follow this scenic back road 21.3 miles to the Hinkle Springs Trailhead on the left (east) side of the road. Back-country access is via the Bonanza Bill Trail # 23.

## Lanphier Trail # 52



Length: 5.6 miles

Rating: Moderate -Strenuous

Use: Moderate

Season: April through November

Elevation: 5,600 feet to 7,360 feet

USGS Maps: Bear Mountain, Blue

### Description:

Lanphier Canyon provides a scenic access route into the northeastern section of the Blue Range Primitive Area. The trail follows Lanphier Canyon for most of its 5 mile course winding in and out of that shallow gorge providing scenic views as it reaches high ground and offering the pleasant surroundings of rich green riparian vegetation as it descends back to the streambed. At its high points, views of Bear Mountain, Lanphier Peak, and overlooks of Lanphier Canyon are the reward for the climb.

About 2.7 miles from the trailhead a major tributary called Indian Creek shelters an exceptionally lush riparian area which you may want to stop and enjoy.

Beyond Indian Creek Canyon the trail slants up the canyon slopes to offer even broader panoramas to the south and west.

About one half mile beyond the confluence of Lanphier and Indian Creeks, the trail climbs the north slope of the canyon and meanders through a series of secluded basins before dropping back into the canyon.

Vegetation varies as the trail gains and loses altitude and the area through which it passes becomes more or less exposed. Trailside trees vary through the entire range found in the Blue with ponderosa pine and white fir holding the high ground and cool sheltered areas, while pinion, juniper and scrub oak claim the hotter, dryer south slopes. Maples, walnuts, alders and box elders thrive in the streamside oases.

As the trail nears its end, it crosses the creek one last time at a pleasant spot marked by pools of water bordered by moss covered rocks. From that point the trail heads up slope to its junction with the Cow Flat Trail # 55.

### Notes:

During high water times, hikers may not be able to access this trail across the Blue River – an alternative to access this area is via Sawmill Trail # 39.

Reliable water can be found at Blue River and in Lanphier Creek downstream of Indian Creek.

No mechanized vehicles (including mountain bikes) are permitted in the Primitive Area.

**Trail Log (in miles):**

- 0.0 Trailhead at Blue River.
- 0.6 Junction with Largo Trail # 51.
- 1.5 Red rock pillars.
- 3.2 Indian Creek Canyon
- 5.0 Cashier Spring.
- 5.6 Junction with Cow Flat Trail # 55.

**Access:**

Drive 3 miles east of Alpine on US 180 to Forest Road 281 (Blue River Road). Turn south and follow this scenic back road 23 miles to the Blue Administration Site and trailhead.

Backcountry access is via Largo Trail # 51 and Cow Flat Trail # 55.

# Largo Trail # 51



Length: 5.6 miles

Rating: Moderate - Strenuous

Use: Moderate

Season: April through November

Elevation: 5,600 feet to 7,840 feet.

USGS Maps: Bear Mtn., Blue

## Description:

The Largo Trail serves as a primary access route into the eastern reaches of the Blue Primitive Area. In addition to serving as a route into scenic Largo Canyon, it offers access to a number of other trails which form a connected network in the extremely remote part of the primitive area east of the river (see backcountry access).

Largo Trail # 51 starts 0.5 miles from the trailhead in Lanphier Canyon. At a point where Lanphier Trail continues along the canyon floor, Largo Trail climbs out of the canyon toward the south, through stands of pinion, juniper, and scrub oak, to a ridge that separates Largo and Lanphier Canyons. Along the ridge you'll find good views of the north and eastern reaches of the Blue.

From this exposed saddle, where semi-arid country plants such as mountain mahogany and ceanothus find the climate to their liking, the trail drops into Largo Canyon for the rest of its climb to the canyon rim. This major side canyon of the Blue is dry most of the year but still supports a healthy riparian community made up mostly of mature

ponderosa and assorted hardwoods including big-tooth maple and Arizona alder.

Just after Largo Trail # 51 passes Dutch Oven Spring and Maple Springs, Telephone Ridge Trail # 42 branches off toward Sawmill Canyon and onto the ridge for which it is named. This trail provides a steep and short route to Bear Mountain Lookout.

Largo Trail continues up canyon, crisscrossing the streambed until it begins a steep ascent up the canyon's south slope. At the top of a series of switchbacks, in a stand of old growth ponderosa, the trail splits.

Largo Trail follows the west (right) fork and climbs gradually about three-quarters of a mile to a junction with WS Trail at the foot of the switchbacks leading to Bear Mountain Lookout. The east (left) fork marks the beginning of Little Blue Trail # 41 which proceeds up the drainage about the same distance to another junction with the WS Lake Trail and continues on into Bear Valley.

**Notes:**

During high water times, hikers may not be able to access this trail across the Blue River – an alternative to access this area is via Sawmill Trail # 39.

Flowing water can be found at Blue River and Dutch Oven Spring.

No mechanized vehicles (including mountain bikes) are permitted in the Primitive Area.

**Trail Log (in miles):**

- 0.0 Trail branches off Lanphier Trail # 52, about 0.5 miles up Lanphier Trail from Blue River
- 1.0 Trail crosses Largo Creek.
- 2.0 Dutch Oven Spring; rock masonry to left of trail near creek. Trail is boggy at this point.
- 2.3 Maple Spring. Water in creek here.
- 2.4 Junction with Telephone Ridge # 42.
- 4.3 Fork in trail. Largo veers right and begins ascent to Bear Mountain.
- 4.9 Trail ends at junction with WS Trail # 54. Bear Mountain is 1.2 miles up the WS Lake Trail

**Access:**

Drive 3 miles east of Alpine on Us 180 to Forest Road 281 (Blue River Road). Turn south and follow this scenic back road 23 miles to the Blue Administration Site Trailhead. From the trailhead, head to the right through two gates to the Blue River. About 100 yards downstream on the other side of the river is a corral that marks the mouth of Lanphier Canyon. The Largo Trail begins about 0.5 mile up the Lanphier Trail # 52.

Backcountry Access: Largo Trail is accessible via Lanphier Trail # 52, Telephone Ridge Trail # 42 and WS Lake Trail # 54.

# S-Canyon Trail # 53



Length: 5.8 miles

Rating: Strenuous

Use: Light

Season: April through November

Elevation: 5,680 to 7,600 feet

USGS Map: Blue

## Description:

The high, ridge-top course of this trail offers a steady display of western Blue Range panoramas as it climbs from river bottom to canyon rim. As a matter of fact, you'll see a number of memorable views along the S-Canyon Trail, including an overlook into a unique, sheer-walled, tight-turning stretch of the Blue River.

The trail also offers continuous overlooks into S-Canyon, one of the steeper side canyons dropping into the Blue from the east. S-Canyon is so named because it drops from the rim down a course cut into the eastern slopes of the Blue River Canyon that roughly duplicates the shape of the curliest letter of the alphabet.

From the mouth of S-Canyon, the trail climbs to a high vantage point that enables you to look 100 feet straight down on the cottonwood-lined meanders of one of the most picturesque stretches of the Blue. From that bird's-eye perspective, the trail stays with the high ground as it follows the ridge that separates S and Cow Canyons for the rest of its course. You'll enjoy views into both canyons as the trail wanders back and forth across the ridge line. And as the trail climbs higher, the panorama to the west broadens to include a good portion of the

Blue River Canyon and the Blue Range. Blue Peak, Indian Peak, and Raspberry Peak stand tall over Foote Canyon.

Pinion/juniper stands are the predominant vegetation here, where sun and wind create conditions too dry for other species, although a few ponderosas and Gambel oak have managed to set up housekeeping in some sheltered northern exposures.

After climbing 2,000 feet through this rocky, semi-arid landscape, S-Canyon Trail ends at its junction with Cow Flat Trail # 55 near an old corral and a stock tank on Cow Flat. The tank provides water for any riding stock you might have, and for any other four-legged companions.

**Trail Log (in miles):**

- 0.0 Trailhead at Blue Camp Administrative Site. Trail goes through gate to river, and then follows river upstream.
- 0.5 After crossing mouth of S Canyon Trail, ascend the ridge to the north side of S Canyon.
- 1.0 Junction with old roadbed that leads down to private property, trail ascends ridge
- 5.2 High point of the trail, rough switchbacks descend from here to Cow Flat.
- 5.7 Cow Flat – corral located to the left.
- 5.8 Trail terminus at junction with Cow Flat Trail # 55.

**Access:**

Drive 3 miles east of Alpine on US 180 to Forest Road 281 (Blue River Road). Turn south and follow this scenic back road 23 miles to the Blue Camp Administrative Site and Trailhead.

Backcountry Access: S-Canyon Trail is also accessible via the Cow Flat Trail # 55.



## Sawmill Trail # 39



Length: 5.4 miles

Rating: Moderate - Strenuous

Use: Light

Season: April through October

Elevation: 5,600 to 8,400 feet

USGS Maps: Bear Mountain

### Description:

Sawmill Trail leads from the Blue River Road to the rim of Blue River Canyon and the edge of the Mogollon Rim (pronounced muggy-own) along steep, high Telephone Ridge. This ridge separates Largo and Sawmill Canyons, two major tributaries of the Blue. Excellent views of these two scenic canyons as well as the broader panoramas of the Blue River Canyon country mark the ridge-top reaches of this trail.

Sawmill Trail intersects the WS Lake Trail # 54, which a short distance further reaches the 8,550-foot summit of Bear Mountain. Some of the best views in the entire Blue Range Mountains await you at the end of this 5.5 mile, 3,000 foot climb.

Other areas accessible from this trail include Largo Creek and Sawmill Canyon, both of which may be reached via the connecting Telephone Ridge Trail # 42. Either one of these alternative routes makes a good loop hike if you arrange the two-mile shuttle between Sawmill and Blue Camp trailheads in advance.

Most of the hike along the Sawmill Trail is through high desert country. Trailside vegetation varies from pinyon-juniper woodlands at lower elevations to stands of ponderosa pines and Gambel oak along the ridges and more shaded slopes.

### Notes:

This trail is an alternative route to allow hiking access the Bear Mountain area during high water conditions on the Blue River at Blue Camp Trailhead.

There are no reliable water sources along this trail.

To reach the top of Bear Mountain, you must continue past the junction with WS Lake Trail # 54 approximately .25 mile to the Bear Mountain lookout access trail.

No mechanized vehicles (including mountain bikes) are permitted in the Blue Range Primitive Area.

**Trail Log (in miles):**

- 0.0 Trailhead at FR 281 (Blue River Road)
- 1.3 Cross streambed, trail ascends slope to the south.
- 3.2 Good views to the west, trail climbs steadily to Telephone Ridge.
- 3.4 Turn right at the saddle; trail continues to ascend, now following the high ridgeline of Telephone Ridge. Panoramic views in all directions.
- 5.4 Trail terminus at junction with WS Lake Trail (to reach Blue Mountain summit, continue along WS Lake Trail # 54 for 0.25 mile to the access trail to Blue Mountain lookout).

**Access:**

Drive 3.5 miles east of Alpine on US 180 to FR 281 (Blue River Road). Turn south and follow this well-maintained gravel road along the Blue River for 24.5 miles to the Sawmill Trailhead on the left (east) side of the road.

# Telephone Ridge Trail # 42



Length: 0.9 miles

Rating: Strenuous

Use: Light

Season: April through November

Elevation: 6,560 feet to 7,520 feet

USGS Maps: Blue, Bear Mountain

## Description:

This is a quite steep connector trail that serves as a shortcut between the Largo Trail # 51 and the portion of the Sawmill Trail # 39 that runs along the top of Telephone Ridge.

Telephone Ridge Trail # 42 was used by Forest Service lookouts in a hurry to get from the Blue River Road to their lookout at the top of Bear Mountain back in the days when it was staffed. It effectively cuts one mile from the more frequently used route via Largo Trail and the WS Lake Trail # 54, making it possible to climb out of Largo Canyon and head up the mountain via the more direct Sawmill Trail.

This connector also enables backcountry travelers to put together a loop hike via Largo, WS Lake, Sawmill, and Telephone Ridge trails that covers some very scenic country and takes you back to your car at the Blue Camp Trailhead.

Or if you're hiking in Largo Canyon and find yourself hoping for some big views of the surrounding area, Telephone Ridge is the place to go. The opposite holds true as well. If you're on the ridge and longing for

a cool canyon with green trees and a clear running stream, you may want to use the Telephone Ridge Trail to drop down to Maple Spring in Largo Canyon. You can usually find running water there.

This trail offers good views into the canyon while you're picking your way down the switchbacks, and you'll probably appreciate the opportunity to take a breather and enjoy them.

## Notes:

Water is usually available at Maple Spring

No mechanized vehicles (including mountain bikes) are permitted in the Primitive Area

## Trail Log (in miles):

- 0.0 Junction with Largo Trail # 51
- 0.3 Leave ponderosa pine forest, enter pinion-juniper woodland
- 0.9 Junction with Sawmill Trail # 39

## Access:

Backcountry access only: the Telephone Ridge Trail may be accessed via the Largo Trail # 51 and the Sawmill Trail # 39.

# Tige Rim Trail # 90

32



Length: 5 miles

Rating: Easy - Moderate

Use: Light - Moderate

Season: April through November

Elevation: 7,200 to 7,760 feet

USGS Maps: Blue SE

## Description:

The Tige Rim Trail provides a "scenic route" alternative to the more direct Bonanza Bill Trail into the eastern reaches of the Blue Range. Nearly continuous long range vistas serve as its main attraction.

The Tige Rim Trail keeps to the high ground crossing from Arizona into New Mexico's Blue Range Wilderness (administered by the Gila National Forest) and then back again as it wanders across this canyon carved landscape. The Blue Range Wilderness was in the past also part of the Blue Range Primitive Area, but was legally designated by congress with the New Mexico Wilderness Act of 1985.

The trail branches off the Bonanza Bill Trail about a mile from the Pueblo Park Trailhead and sets off on a winding route, skirting first Pueblo and Tige Canyon to the east, then Steeple Canyon to the west. It is 1.3 miles farther to the same point if you take the Tige Canyon Trail rather than Bonanza Bill, but if scenery is what you're after, it's well worth the added steps.

Trailside vegetation starts out as ponderosa pine mixed with Gambel oak and mature juniper near the trailhead. The over-story varies with elevation and exposure through a broad range of trees and shrubs, from scrub oak and piñon-juniper communities on the steep slopes and cliffs to the east, to ponderosa pine and mixed conifers such as white fir and Douglas-fir in Steeple Creek Basin.

Tige Canyon and Bonanza Bill Trails join about 1.3 miles south of Hinkle Spring, virtually on the Arizona/New Mexico line.

## Notes:

This trail makes a good day hike when combined with the Bonanza Bill Trail. The 10.9 mile loop provides a good sampling of what the eastern reaches of the Blue have to offer.

There are no water sources on this trail

No mechanized vehicles (including mountain bikes) are permitted in the Primitive Area

### **Trail Log (in miles):**

- 0.0 Northern junction with Bonanza Bill Trail, about a half mile from the trailhead at Pueblo Park Road, Forest Road 232
- 0.1 Gate in fence at New Mexico state line; entering Blue Range Wilderness
- 1.0 Gate in fence; trail enters a pine and juniper flat
- 3.0 Good views of the upper reaches of Tige Canyon for the next mile
- 5.6 Southern junction with Bonanza Bill Trail at a fence gate, return to Arizona and back into the Blue Range Primitive Area.

### **Access:**

Drive 3 miles east of Alpine on US 180 to Forest Road 281 (Blue River Road). Turn south and follow this scenic back road 20.7 miles to the Pueblo Park Road (Forest Road 232). The Bonanza Bill Trailhead is 4.7 miles east on the dirt road just before it crosses the New Mexico state line. A wood fenced corral serves as a landmark.



Length: 8.9 miles

Rating: Moderate

Use: Light-Moderate

Season: May through October

Elevation: 8,500' to 7,460'

USGS Maps: Blue, Bear Mountain

## Description:

Much of the route of the WS Lake Trail winds along the edge of the Mogollon Rim (pronounced: muggy-own), a 1,000 to 2,000 foot escarpment that cuts across three quarters of Northern Arizona, as well as part of western New Mexico. This high escarpment offers expansive overlooks to the south, climaxing in a 360-degree panorama at the 8,550 foot summit of Bear Mountain.

Most of the trail is rated as moderate, although the climb to the top of Bear Mountain is a steep one, with a mile of switchbacks and 750 feet of elevation gain. The view is well worth the climb and there are plenty of places along the way to rest and enjoy it.

Another interesting aspect to this trail is that it is one of the few in the eastern reaches of the Blue where you'll see aspen trees and mixed conifers. Mostly, however, it passes through habitat more typical of

this drier half of the Blue Range Mountains, with ponderosa pines and Gambel oaks serving as the predominant trailside tree species.

Beyond the summit of Bear Mountain the trail leads through a high desert area of pinyon-juniper and scrub oak woodlands interspersed with cactus and yucca to Bear Spring. This reliable water source was developed for use by the Bear Mountain lookout, but the tower is no longer in use for fire monitoring activities. It marks the end of the trail, 3 miles beyond the summit of Bear Mountain.

Bear Spring is the only reliable water source along the entire WS Lake Trail.

WS Lake itself is actually a small stock tank located in the middle of a 5-acre dry lakebed. It offers seasonal water for riding animals and livestock, and should not be considered a reliable water source for human consumption.

**Notes:**

This trail should not be confused with the WS Mountain Trail #43, located primarily within the neighboring Blue Range Wilderness Area in New Mexico. That trail is still identified as #43 on the Arizona side, but is named the Franz Spring Trail from the New Mexico border to its terminus at WS Lake.

Bear Spring is the only reliable water source along this trail. Water is available for STOCK ONLY at WS Lake except during dry periods.

No mechanized vehicles (including mountain bikes) are permitted in the Primitive Area.

**Trail Log (in miles):**

- 0.0 Junction with Franz Spring Trail at WS Lake.
- 1.0 High point of the trail, atop WS Mountain.
- 1.8 Good views to the southwest.
- 2.8 Junction with Cow Flat Trail #55.
- 3.3 High point on Fire Ridge.
- 5.3 Intersection with Bear Valley Trail #41.
- 5.6 Intersection with Largo Trail #39
- 6.2 Intersection with Sawmill Trail #39.
- 6.5 Intersection with side trail to Bear Mountain lookout.
- 7.9 Switchbacks descend into Bear Canyon.
- 8.9 Trail terminus at Bear Springs.

**Access:**

This trail is only accessible via other backcountry trails:

The eastern terminus of the WS Lake Trail is located at its junction with the Franz Spring Trail #43 and the Bonanza Bill Trail #23 Near WS Lake. Other trails that provide access to this trail are the Largo Trail #51, the Little Blue Trail #41, the Sawmill Trail #39, and the Cow Flat Trail #55. For further information, please see the trail guides for these trails.

## Part 2: Blue Range Primitive Area Northwest Trails -

### Alpine Ranger District West of the Blue River

Blue Cabin Ruins Trail # 321 .....	38
Blue Lookout Trail # 71 .....	40
Blue River Trail # 101 .....	42
Foot Creek Trail # 76 .....	44
Grant Cabin Shortcut Trail # 306 .....	46
Grant Creek Trail # 75 .....	48
Horse Ridge Trail # 38 .....	50
KP Rim Trail # 315 .....	52
KP Trail # 70 .....	54
Long Cienega Trail # 305 .....	56
McKittrick Trail # 72 .....	58
North Fork KP Trail # 93 .....	60
Paradise Trail # 74 .....	62
P-Bar Lake Trail # 326 .....	64
Red Hill Trail # 56 .....	66
Steeple Mesa Trail # 73 .....	68
Tutt Creek Trail # 105 .....	70
Upper Grant Creek Trail # 75 .....	72

### Contact information:

Alpine Ranger District  
 Apache-Sitgreaves National Forests  
 P.O. Box 469 (mailing address)  
 42634 Hwy. 180/191 (physical address)  
 Alpine, AZ 85920  
 Voice: (928) 339-5000  
 TTY: (928) 339-4566



## **\*\*IMPORTANT SAFETY NOTICE \*\***

The Northwest portion of the Blue Range Primitive Area has been affected by the Wallow Fire of June 2011. The area is open to public use and entry - HOWEVER – some trails may not have been assessed or recently maintained for hazards associated with the fire, so plan your trip accordingly, and call the Alpine Ranger District for the latest information.

Please keep in mind that the area may be affected by the wildfire for many years to come, and continue to be prone to hazards such as falling trees, flooding and burned out stump holes. The environment you will be entering is highly susceptible to rainstorms and wind events. Any time you enter the forest, you should be aware of your environment and changing weather conditions.

***You are responsible for your own safety!***

***Always look up, look down, and look all around.***



Length: 0.6 miles

Rating: Strenuous but short

Use: Light

Season: May through October

Elevation: 8,920 feet to 8,300 feet

USGS Maps: Strayhorse

## Description:

**\*\*NOTICE\*\*** - The Northwest portion of the Blue Range Primitive Area where this trail is located has been affected by the Wallow Fire of June 2011. The area is open to public use and entry - HOWEVER - some trails may not have been assessed or recently maintained for hazards associated with the fire, so plan your trip accordingly, and call the Alpine Ranger District for the latest information.

Please keep in mind that the area may be affected by the wildfire for many years to come, and continue to be prone to hazards such as falling trees, flooding and burned out stump holes. The environment you will be entering is highly susceptible to rainstorms and wind events. Any time you enter the forest, you should be aware of your environment and changing weather conditions.

*You are responsible for your own safety! Always look up, look down, and look all around.*

This short trail provides access to one of the Blue Range's better known Wild West landmarks. It leads to the burned out remains of an

old cabin that was once used to house personnel to man the lookout tower at the top of Blue Peak.

The cabin was also once used as a hideout by a fellow who allegedly held up a bank in McNary in 1921. The man was a German immigrant who reportedly was desperate to secure money to bring his mother to the US from Germany. When the bank refused to grant him the loan, he re-proposed the deal in terms the bank couldn't refuse.

Neither his altruistic intentions nor the fact that he was about to give himself up was enough to avert the tragic course of events the robbery set in motion. One member of the posse that came to apprehend the unfortunate soul shot him down as he stepped out of the cabin with his hands up.

If you're ever on Forest Road 249 at the west end of Williams Valley, you might notice his crude grave marker. The posse buried him there on the trip back to town. Today, all that remains of the old cabin are some of the metal fixtures which withstood the fire that destroyed it in 1980.

Once you've visited the ashes of the old cabin and meditated on whatever history happens to linger there, you may consider not returning by the way you came, but taking a detour to one of the best views in the Blue Range. If this sounds appealing to you, and you don't mind a few extra steps, you can climb up the Blue Lookout Trail # 71 and the McKittrick Trail # 72 all the way to the summit of Blue Peak. The view here is no less than sublime, stretching well into New Mexico and encompassing much of southeastern Arizona.

After seeing how many features in the panorama you can name, you can head back down the McKittrick Trail to the trailhead for a loop hike of 3.7 miles.

### **Notes:**

No mechanized vehicles (including mountain bikes) are permitted in the Primitive Area.

### **Trail Log (in miles):**

- 0.0 Trailhead at end of primitive road.
- 0.6 Junction with Blue Lookout Trail # 71 (The ruins of Blue Cabin are just downhill of this junction.

### **Access:**

Drive south from Alpine 29 miles on US 191 to Forest Road 84, the Blue Lookout Road. This is the first left after the road to the Salt House Trail and it is signed "Dead End." Drive east on this primitive road about 6.5 miles to an open flat where the road is closed and there is a dirt parking lot. From this point the Blue Cabin Ruins Trail heads northeast down a steadily deepening drainage toward KP Canyon.

Backcountry Access: Blue Cabin Ruins Trail is also accessible via the Blue Lookout Trail # 71.



Length: 2.9 miles

Rating: Strenuous

Use: Light

Season: May through October

Elevation: 9,346 feet to 6,800 feet

USGS Maps: Strayhorse

## Description:

**\*\*NOTICE\*\*** - The Northwest portion of the Blue Range Primitive Area where this trail is located has been affected by the Wallow Fire of June 2011. The area is open to public use and entry - HOWEVER – some trails may not have been assessed or recently maintained for hazards associated with the fire, so plan your trip accordingly, and call the Alpine Ranger District for the latest information.

Please keep in mind that the area may be affected by the wildfire for many years to come, and continue to be prone to hazards such as falling trees, flooding and burned out stump holes. The environment you will be entering is highly susceptible to rainstorms and wind events. Any time you enter the forest, you should be aware of your environment and changing weather conditions.

***You are responsible for your own safety! Always look up, look down, and look all around.***

Unsurpassed panoramas, a touch of wild history, and access into one of the Blue Area's largest side canyons are some of the attractions offered

by this steep, high country trail. The trail begins about 0.6 miles below the location of the old Blue Peak lookout (now decommissioned) but chances are you'll want to make the hike up to the summit of Blue Peak to enjoy the panorama.

The Blue Range and Blue River Canyon, Eagle Creek, Mount Graham and the Pinalenos to the south, the Mogollon Range in New Mexico and the canyon of the San Francisco River are just a few of the sights you can see from this vantage point.

When you hike this trail be sure to bring along a map for the Gila National Forest in New Mexico as well as an Apache-Sitgreaves map to help you identify all the landmarks. If you can get a map of southwest New Mexico and southeast Arizona, you might be better off. The views are that big.

When you can tear yourself away from the views at the trailhead and start back down the trail, you'll find you're in for a steep trip down a switchback staircase. Along the descent to KP Canyon is the location an old cabin that was once used as a home by the lookout. It was also once used as a hideout by a bank robber.

The fellow held up a bank in McNary in 1921 reportedly to secure money the bank refused to loan him to bring his mother to the US from Germany. Neither his altruistic intentions nor the fact that he was about to give himself up was enough to avert the tragic course of events the robbery set in motion. One member of the posse that came to apprehend the unfortunate soul shot him down as he stepped out of the cabin with his hands up. If you're ever on Forest Road 249 at the

west end of Williams Valley you can find his grave marker where the posse buried him there on the trip back to town.

From the Blue Lookout Cabin, the trail drops down a steep drainage into KP Canyon to join the KP Trail. The going gets a bit rough here; making good boots with ankle support are a must.

### **Notes:**

No mechanized vehicles (including mountain bikes) permitted in Primitive Area.

### **Trail Log (in miles):**

- 0.0 Trailhead at McKittrick Trail # 72.
- 0.9 Junction with Blue Lookout Trail # 321, site of old cabin.
- 2.9 Junction with KP Trail # 70.

### **Access:**

Drive south from Alpine 29 miles on US 191 to Forest Road 84 (Blue Lookout Road). This is the first left after the road to the Salt House Trail and it is signed "Dead End." Drive east on this primitive road about 6.5 miles to an open flat where the road is closed and there is a dirt parking lot. From this point follow the McKittrick Trail #72 one mile to its junction with the Blue Lookout Trail.

Backcountry Access: You can also access the blue Lookout Trail via the KP Trail from KP Cienega Campground. It's a 5 mile hike from the campground to the junction of KP and Blue Lookout Trails in KP Canyon.

# Blue River Trail # 101

42



Length: 17.2 miles

Rating: Moderate

Use: Light

Season: May through October

Elevation: 5,000 to 4,360 feet

USGS Maps: Bear Mountain, Dutch Blue, Fritz Canyon

## Description:

**\*\*NOTICE\*\*** - The Northwest portion of the Blue Range Primitive Area where this trail is located has been affected by the Wallow Fire of June 2011. The area is open to public use and entry - HOWEVER – some trails may not have been assessed or recently maintained for hazards associated with the fire, so plan your trip accordingly, and call the Alpine Ranger District for the latest information.

Please keep in mind that the area may be affected by the wildfire for many years to come, and continue to be prone to hazards such as falling trees, flooding and burned out stump holes. The environment you will be entering is highly susceptible to rainstorms and wind events. Any time you enter the forest, you should be aware of your environment and changing weather conditions.

***You are responsible for your own safety!***

***Always look up, look down, and look all around.***

At times appearing to be more of a “suggested route” rather than a developed trail in character, the Blue River Trail # 101 follows the

river north to south (or vice-versa) You will be able to find your way because the trail stays within the river corridor, but be prepared for frequent river crossings. The Blue River Trail # 101 also junctions with the lower ending points of a number of other primitive area trails beginning up on US 191, so may be accessed by taking these from their respective trailheads down to the Blue River.

Although the northern trailhead and portion of the trail is located on the Alpine Ranger District, the southern trailhead at XXX Ranch, southern portion of the trail, and Hannah Hot Springs are located on the Clifton Ranger District.

Blue River Trail # 101 Access to Hannah Hot Springs – Clifton Ranger District

The south end of the trail from the trailhead at XXX Ranch provides the shortest access to Hannah Hot Springs, a popular destination for backcountry hot springs enthusiasts.

About three miles upstream the old Baseline Ranger Station will be on the east side of the river. There are several signs, including one describing the Blue Range Primitive Area, which begins at Baseline. Not much remains of the Ranger Station remains beyond the hearth and the root cellar. There is a small campsite at Baseline, but beware of “widow-makers” from the large cottonwood trees around the area.

The mouth of Little Blue Creek is about a ½ mile upstream of Baseline on the east side of the river. There is no trail up Little Blue, and horse travel is strongly discouraged. The route consists of rock-hopping and numerous creek crossings. Expect to get your feet wet.

The mouth of Hannah Springs Canyon is approximately 2 ½ - 3 miles up Little Blue on the east side of the canyon. There is a short "Box" at the mouth of Hannah that requires wading through waist deep water. There are several smaller pools to wade through in the ½ mile or so to the hot springs.

At the hot springs there are two campsites, one on each side of the creek. There is a long, shallow soaking pool fed by the hot springs. Beware that the water is very hot: it comes out of the ground at 133 degrees F., and doesn't cool much before reaching the pool.

This area is covered by the Fritz Canyon and Dutch Blue quadrangles, as well as the Blue Range Wilderness and Primitive Area map.

**For more information about Hannah Hot Springs please contact:**

Clifton Ranger District  
Apache-Sitgreaves National Forests  
397240 AZ 75  
Duncan, AZ 85534  
Voice: (928) 687-8600  
TTY: (928) 687-1807

Please practice Leave No Trace camping techniques, and treat all water before drinking.

**Notes:**

No mechanized vehicles (including mountain bikes) are permitted in the Primitive Area.

**Trail Log (In Miles):**

From the north:

- 0.0 Trailhead at end of Blue River Road # 281
- 2.0 Junction with Raspberry Trail # 35 to the west
- 3.7 Junction with Strayhorse Trail # 20 to the west
- 6.3 Junction with Cow Flat/Bear Valley Trail # 55 to the east
- 9.6 Junction with Alma Mesa Trail # 14
- 13.6 Junction with Overland Trail # 310
- 17.2 Terminus at XXX Ranch Trailhead

**Access:**

From the northern trailhead: Take U.S. 180 east from Alpine, AZ for 3 miles. Turn right (south) at FR 281 (County Road 67004) and continue south for 32 miles to the Blue River Trailhead.

From the southern trailhead: Take U.S. 191 north from Morenci to milepost 188.8, and turn right onto F.R. 475 (Juan Miller Road). Follow F.R. 475 approximately 15 miles to the junction with F.R. 475C (XXX Ranch Road). Turn left onto F.R. 475C and follow to the end of the road at XXX Ranch.

# Foote Creek Trail # 76



Length: 15.3 miles

Rating: Strenuous

Use: Light

Season: May through October

Elevation: 9,200 feet to 5,520 feet

USGS Maps: Hannagan Meadow, Beaverhead, Bear Mountain

## Description:

**\*\*NOTICE\*\*** - The Northwest portion of the Blue Range Primitive Area where this trail is located has been affected by the Wallow Fire of June 2011. The area is open to public use and entry - HOWEVER - some trails may not have been assessed or recently maintained for hazards associated with the fire, so plan your trip accordingly, and call the Alpine Ranger District for the latest information.

Please keep in mind that the area may be affected by the wildfire for many years to come, and continue to be prone to hazards such as falling trees, flooding and burned out stump holes. The environment you will be entering is highly susceptible to rainstorms and wind events. Any time you enter the forest, you should be aware of your environment and changing weather conditions.

*You are responsible for your own safety! Always look up, look down, and look all around.*

Foote Creek follows one of the most prominent side drainages of the Blue River as it takes you all the way from canyon rim to canyon floor. This long and scenic path sets out from the same trailhead as Steeple Mesa Trail, near Hannagan Administrative Camp.

The trail mostly follows the remnants of an old logging road for about 4 or 5 miles as it meanders along the ridge top under a cool canopy of spruce, fir and aspen. If you keep a sharp eye out here and stay quiet, you have a good chance of seeing some of the resident wildlife grazing in the hidden meadows.

About a half mile beyond the trail's junction with Grant Creek Trail # 75 at P-Bar Lake, things begin to change. The former roadbed narrows to a path, and turns to follow the upper reaches of Foote Creek. The path accompanies the creek into a steadily deepening gorge until the going gets too tight.

At this point, there's a short detour over a steep saddle to avoid a narrow stretch in the canyon. The climb avoids the obstruction and provides a good view of Castle Rock standing tall and picturesque to the north.

After this short diversion, the trail leads back down into the canyon, crossing and re-crossing the rocky streambed past a junction with Horse Ridge Trail and on to some more great views. Steep red rock cliffs mark the entry of Foote Creek's Right Fork into the main drainage. Tutt Creek Trail # 105 branches off at this point.



A couple of miles downstream, Foote Creek trail leaves the canyon and heads for high ground to the north of the drainage. This route provides easier going, skirting the southern slopes of Foote Creek Mesa where the hiker is once again rewarded with long distance vistas of scenic Blue River Canyon.

For the remaining mile the trail continues to offer good views as it makes the final drop into Blue River Canyon at the Blue Administrative Camp.

#### **Notes:**

Cedar Springs generally flows year round.

Foote Creek has intermittent pools.

P-Bar Lake provides water for stock purposes.

No mechanized vehicles (including mountain bikes) are permitted in the Primitive area.

#### **Trail Log (in miles):**

0.0 Trailhead parking.

3.5 P-Bar Lake.

3.6 Junction with Grant Creek Trail #75.

9.5 Junction with Horse Ridge Trail.

11.0 Junction with Tutt Creek Trail #10, wood corral to the right.

15.3 Blue River Road-Blue Camp Trailhead Parking area.

#### **Access:**

Drive 23 miles south on US 191 to the south end of Hannagan Meadow and turn left (east) on Forest Road 29A to the Steeple /Foote Creek trailhead and parking lot.

For lower trail access near the Blue River: Drive Forest Road 281 for 22.7 miles to Blue Administrative site and trailhead on right (west).

Backcountry Access: Foote Creek Trail #76 is accessible via Horse Ridge Trail #38, Tutt Creek Trail #105, and P-Bar Lake Trail #326.

# Grant Cabin Shortcut Trail # 306

46



Length: 0.9 miles

Rating: Moderate (short but steep)

Use: Moderate

Season: May through October

Elevation: 7,700 feet to 7,300 feet

USGS Maps: Hannagan, Strayhorse

## Description:

**\*\*NOTICE\*\*** - The Northwest portion of the Blue Range Primitive Area where this trail is located has been affected by the Wallow Fire of June 2011. The area is open to public use and entry - HOWEVER – some trails may not have been assessed or recently maintained for hazards associated with the fire, so plan your trip accordingly, and call the Alpine Ranger District for the latest information.

Please keep in mind that the area may be affected by the wildfire for many years to come, and continue to be prone to hazards such as falling trees, flooding and burned out stump holes. The environment you will be entering is highly susceptible to rainstorms and wind events. Any time you enter the forest, you should be aware of your environment and changing weather conditions.

*You are responsible for your own safety! Always look up, look down, and look all around.*

This shortcut-connector trail provides a direct route from Grant Creek Trail # 75 on the rim of Grant Creek Canyon to Upper Grant Creek Trail # 65 along the canyon floor, connecting those two trails to each other or to Long Cienega Trail # 309 as an alternative to the longer route via the Paradise Trail # 74.

Incorporating Trail # 306 creates a loop hike that starts down Grant Creek Trail # 75 and returns by Upper Grant Creek Trail # 65, a manageable but ambitious day hike of about 10.5 miles. It also allows a loop route via Grant Creek Trail # 75 and Long Cienega Trail # 309 that is 4 miles shorter than a route via the Paradise Trail.

About 100 yards upstream from the point where the trail reaches the canyon bottom "on the only flat land in the canyon," you'll find what's left of Grant Cabin, an old ranch line shack. Only four walls and an old corral remain from the days when cowboys had to virtually live with their cattle. Remains of old copper vessels found nearby suggest that a little moonshining may have been practiced here as well.

Grant Cabin Shortcut and the nearby portions of the trails it connects, wind through a variety of upland habitats. Relatively solid canopy of mixed conifers, broken intermittently by small cienegas and occasional ponderosa pine stands, covers the highlands.

On the slopes of the canyon, pinion/juniper woodlands cover southern exposures, while colonies of conifers keep to cooler northern slopes.

Below their Grant Cabin connection, the environs of Grant Creek and Upper Grant Creek Trails changes markedly as they begin their dive into the lower reaches of the Blue.

**Notes:**

- No mechanized vehicles (including mountain bikes) are permitted in the Primitive Area.

**Trail Log (in miles):**

- 0.0 Junction with Grant Creek Trail # 75. Junction occurs at a gate about 1.5 miles below P-Bar Lake on the Grant Creek Trail. Trail cuts back to the west at this point.
- 0.3 Trail is adjacent to a fence. Do not cross through gate!
- 0.6 Trail crosses rock outcrop and descends through a series of switchbacks (constructed by Apache-Sitgreaves volunteer crew in 1989)
- 0.9 Junction with Upper Grant Trail # 65. Grant Cabin and old wooden corral is visible upstream.

**Access:**

Grant Cabin Shortcut is accessible only via other backcountry trails: Foote Creek Trail # 76 to Grant Creek Trail # 75, Upper Grant Creek Trail # 65, and Long Cienega Trail # 305.

For the most convenient access, drive south on US 191 to the south end of Hannagan Meadow and turn left (east) to the Steeple/Foote Creek trailhead. From the trailhead, take Foote Creek Trail # 76 for about 3.5 miles to the top of Grant Creek Trail # 75 (just beyond P-Bar Lake.) Then, take Grant Creek Trail # 75 for approximately 1.5 miles to reach the junction with Grant Cabin Shortcut Trail # 306.



Length: 10 miles

Rating: Strenuous

Use: Moderate

Season: May through October

Elevation: 8,800 feet to 5,440 feet      USGS Maps: Hannagan  
Meadow, Beaverhead. Bear Mountain

## Description:

**\*\*NOTICE\*\*** - The Northwest portion of the Blue Range Primitive Area where this trail is located has been affected by the Wallow Fire of June 2011. The area is open to public use and entry - HOWEVER - some trails may not have been assessed or recently maintained for hazards associated with the fire, so plan your trip accordingly, and call the Alpine Ranger District for the latest information.

Please keep in mind that the area may be affected by the wildfire for many years to come, and continue to be prone to hazards such as falling trees, flooding and burned out stump holes. The environment you will be entering is highly susceptible to rainstorms and wind events. Any time you enter the forest, you should be aware of your environment and changing weather conditions.

***You are responsible for your own safety! Always look up, look down, and look all around.***

Grant Creek Trail is a major travel route between the rim and the floor of Blue River Canyon. Along the way, it offers a good sampling of

some of the best the Blue country has to offer, from lush alpine forests to deep red rock canyons. Trail access (via Foote Creek Trail # 76) is located close to Hannagan Campground, which accounts for the fact that this is one of the more well-used trails on the District. But don't let that deter you. No trail on the Alpine District is really crowded.

Grant Creek Trail # 75 wanders among cool forests for its first few miles, before beginning to seriously slope toward the canyon. The upland part of the trail offers good opportunities to see wildlife as you walk quietly through the trees. Some just hike this section of the trail and return via the more rugged Grant Cabin and Upper Grant Creek Trails to put together a day hike entirely within the cool confines of the forest.

As the gradient steepens beyond Paradise Park, the forest becomes more open and views broaden. Panoramas of Blue River Canyon and the surrounding mountains form the horizon.

The views of the mountains across the Blue and overlooks of the red rock formations along Grant Creek continue to improve as the trail follows a sloping ridge into the canyon. Long distance views then shrink as the horizon narrows, but you won't miss them as your attention turns to the natural sculptures of colorful red rocks that form the canyon walls here. These rugged formations set a photogenic contrast with the bright green of the box elders, narrow leaf cottonwoods, and Arizona sycamores that thrive in the moist, sheltered habitat. Also nestled between these walls are the pools and riffles of Grant Creek, which flows year-round.

After providing a welcome opportunity to cool off, the trail stays with Grant Creek as the canyon broadens and continues toward the Blue River.

### Notes:

- No mechanized vehicles (including mountain bikes) permitted in Primitive Area.
- White Oak springs and Grant Creek provide reliable sources of flowing water.

### Trail Log (in miles):

- 0.0 Trail terminus. Junction with Foote Creek Trail # 76 at P-Bar Lake. Grant Creek Trail forks to the right, Foote Creek Trail forks to the left.
- 1.1 Trail switchback.
- 1.5 Junction with Grant Cabin Trail # 306. There is a gate at this point.
- 2.7 Junction with Paradise Trail # 74.
- 4.1 Spur trail to the left to White Oak Spring. Grant Creek Trail continues straight and begins descending an arid ridge.
- 5.9 Trail crosses Grant Creek.
- 8.8 Gate near mouth of Grant Creek.
- 9.1 Trailhead adjacent to Blue River Road, Forest Road 281.

### Access:

Via P-Bar Lake Trailhead: From Alpine, AZ, Follow US 191 south for 20 miles to the P-Bar Lake trailhead on the left (east) side of the highway marked by a sign for Trail # 326. Follow the P-Bar Lake Trail # 326 for 0.6 mile to the junction with Foote Creek Trail # 76. Turn left (south) to follow Foote Creek Trail # 76 another 0.6 mile past P-Bar Lake to the junction with Grant Creek Trail # 75.

Via Steeple/Foote Creek Trailhead: From Alpine, AZ drive 23 miles south on US 191 to the south end of Hannagan Meadow and turn left (east) of Forest Road 29A to the Steeple/Foote Creek Trailhead . Access the Grant Creek Trail # 75 by following the Foote Creek Trail # 76 for 3.6 miles south to the trail junction just past P-Bar Lake.

To reach via Blue River, drive 3 miles east of Alpine on US 180 to Forest Road 281 (Blue River Road), then turn south and follow this scenic back road 26.5 miles to the Blue River Road trailhead for Grant Creek Trail.

Backcountry Access: Grant Creek is also accessible via Foote Creek Trail # 76, Grant Cabin Shortcut Trail # 306, Paradise Trail # 74, and P-Bar Lake Trail # 326.

# Horse Ridge Trail # 38

50



Length: 4 miles

Rating: Moderate

Use: Moderate

Season: May through October

Elevation: 8,100 to 6,100 feet

USGS Maps: Beaverhead

## Description:

**\*\*NOTICE\*\*** - The Northwest portion of the Blue Range Primitive Area where this trail is located has been affected by the Wallow Fire of June 2011. The area is open to public use and entry - HOWEVER – some trails may not have been assessed or recently maintained for hazards associated with the fire, so plan your trip accordingly, and call the Alpine Ranger District for the latest information.

Please keep in mind that the area may be affected by the wildfire for many years to come, and continue to be prone to hazards such as falling trees, flooding and burned out stump holes. The environment you will be entering is highly susceptible to rainstorms and wind events. Any time you enter the forest, you should be aware of your environment and changing weather conditions.

***You are responsible for your own safety! Always look up, look down, and look all around.***

The Horse Ridge Trail # 38 is 4.0 miles long, beginning at the Horse Ridge Trailhead on US 191 and ends at the junction with Foote Creek Trail # 76.

Castle Rock, one of the most visible and dramatic landmarks in the Blue Range Primitive Area, can be seen from just about anywhere in the lower reaches of the Blue, but you can see it best from the Horse Ridge Trail # 38.

That rocky butte figures so prominently in attracting hikers to this well-work path that when you hear people talking about their walk on “Castle Rock Trail”, you know they’ve been to Horse Ridge. The towering monolith does indeed present an impressive sight as it looms over this trail, but even so it’s not the only star of this show. There are plenty of other sights to see along this extremely scenic trail.

Bell Rock is another major rock formation which you can get a good view of from this trail, and while you’re enjoying all the interesting formations in the foreground (and puzzling over whether or not they look like what they’re named after) don’t miss the excellent panorama of the Blue Range and Blue River Canyon that stretches to the horizon. Bear Mountain, Whiterocks Mountain, and the Mogollon Range are some of the landmarks that stand out most in this scenic view.

From its high perspective, the trail also offers great overlooks into the red rock canyons of Foote Creek and Fishhook Creek. These views added to all the others we’ve already listed will have you agreeing that this trail may be the best in the Blue when comes to breathtaking panoramas.

Horse Ridge Trail then drops down into Foote Creek down a slope that has received extensive trail work over the decades. This scenic pathway ends at its junction with the Foote Creek Trail # 76 along the floor of the canyon it is named for. The surrounding here are typical of Blue Range riparian areas, with mature ponderosa pines scattered among canyon species such as box elders and Arizona ash.

Water can occasionally be found in this area of Foote Creek, and in a nearby spring, but there are more reliable sources about a mile further both up-and-downstream.

### **Notes:**

No mechanized vehicles (including mountain bikes) are permitted in the Primitive Area.

### **Trail Log (in miles):**

- 0.0 Trailhead off of Highway US 191
- 1.0 Gate on ridge top at the primitive area boundary, trail begins descending
- 2.4 Saddle on a narrow, bald ridge
- 4.0 Trail crosses a rocky point then begins descending a series of switchbacks blasted into the bedrock face
- 4.0 Trail terminus at the junction with Foote Creek Trail # 76

### **Access:**

From Alpine, AZ drive south on Highway US 191 for 15 miles, trailhead is on the east side of the highway marked by signs one half-mile past the junction of Forest Roads 567 and 26 at Beaverhead.

# KP Rim Trail # 315

52



Length: 2.2 miles

Rating: Easy

Use: Moderate

Season: May through October

Elevation: 9,280 feet to 9,100 feet

USGS Maps: Strayhorse

## Description:

**\*\*NOTICE\*\*** - The Northwest portion of the Blue Range Primitive Area where this trail is located has been affected by the Wallow Fire of June 2011. The area is open to public use and entry - HOWEVER - some trails may not have been assessed or recently maintained for hazards associated with the fire, so plan your trip accordingly, and call the Alpine Ranger District for the latest information.

Please keep in mind that the area may be affected by the wildfire for many years to come, and continue to be prone to hazards such as falling trees, flooding and burned out stump holes. The environment you will be entering is highly susceptible to rainstorms and wind events. Any time you enter the forest, you should be aware of your environment and changing weather conditions.

*You are responsible for your own safety! Always look up, look down, and look all around.*

Scenic overlooks into KP Canyon and a day hike that can be stretched into a loop of moderate length are two of the prime features offered by KP Rim Trail. This relatively short trail follows a fence line along a more or less flat ridge top that separates KP and Grant Creek drainages.

For its entire length, the KP Rim Trail stays within a high country ecosystem where Douglas fir, white fir and ponderosa pine are the dominant tree species. The area through which this trail and connecting Steeple Creek Trail pass is a good place to see elk and mule deer, especially if you travel quietly and keep a sharp eye on open areas ahead.

This trail is also a good place to see some of the bird species that inhabit the highlands of the Alpine District, including the Stellers jay that is blue colored but not a blue jay. Watch the trees for these deep indigo-hued birds with their jaunty black topknots. They're cousins of, but not identical to, the eastern blue jay. Like most jays, Stellers jays have a unique character all their own. Some of them even assert their individuality by wearing a tasteful white eye stripe.

About a mile from the trailhead, openings in the tree canopy offer views of KP Canyon and its southern slopes. If you cross the fence and walk a few yards out to the rim the views get even better. A set of sharp eyes or a pair of binoculars will help you to see the lookout tower at the summit of Blue Peak across the canyon, and while you're looking keep an eye out for bighorn sheep. They're occasionally spotted on the steep slopes below.



A little over two miles from its starting point, the KP Rim Trail ends at its junction with the Steeple Creek Trail. If you'd rather cover new ground than retrace your steps, you can turn north along the connecting trail and hike it 3.3 miles to Hannagan Meadow. This trail traverses more alpine habitat known for its plentiful wildlife.

### **Notes:**

No mechanized vehicles (including mountain bikes) permitted in Primitive Area.

Willow Spring and surface runoff provide water suitable for stock animals only.

### **Trail Log (in miles):**

- 0.0 Trailhead parking just off Highway 191. Inside the gate, the KP Rim Trail # 315 continues to the left (east) and the North Fork KP Trail # 93 turns to the right (southwest).
- 0.6 Trail crosses through gate in fence.
- 1.3 First good views of KP Canyon to the south.
- 1.7 Rocky point with excellent views of KP Canyon.
- 2.2 Junction with Steeple Trail # 73

### **Access:**

From Alpine, drive south on US 191 approximately 25 miles to the KP Rim Trailhead, marked with a sign for Trails # 93/315.



Length: 9.4 miles

Rating: Moderate -Strenuous

Use: Moderate

Season: May through October

Elevation: 8,960 feet to 6,560 feet

USGS Maps: Strayhorse, Bear Mountain

### Description:

**\*\*NOTICE\*\*** - The Northwest portion of the Blue Range Primitive Area where this trail is located has been affected by the Wallow Fire of June 2011. The area is open to public use and entry - HOWEVER – some trails may not have been assessed or recently maintained for hazards associated with the fire, so plan your trip accordingly, and call the Alpine Ranger District for the latest information.

Please keep in mind that the area may be affected by the wildfire for many years to come, and continue to be prone to hazards such as falling trees, flooding and burned out stump holes. The environment you will be entering is highly susceptible to rainstorms and wind events. Any time you enter the forest, you should be aware of your environment and changing weather conditions.

***You are responsible for your own safety! Always look up, look down, and look all around.***

In the lush alpine meadow that serves as the setting for the KP Trailhead, there is little indication you could possibly start here and,

in a reasonably short time, find yourself deep in a desert canyon. But that's exactly what happens. From KP Cienega, with its stately spruces and emerald grasses, this 9 mile long trail traces the wandering course of the South Fork of KP Creek as it drops toward the Blue.

As the trail switchbacks from meadow to stream, upland vegetation gives way to riparian community of Douglas fir and moisture loving hardwoods. About 3 miles into the trip, the trail drops sharply into a picturesque canyon-scape where the South Fork and the North Fork join to form KP Creek. Each tributary celebrates this get-together with its own ten foot waterfall.

Below the confluence, the canyon deepens as steep cliffs rise from the floor of the gorge. Stream and trail descend together here, between red and gray rock walls, as clear pools alternate with shallow riffles. Crossings become too many to count. At a few points, the trail climbs out of the inner gorge to avoid difficult going, and in the process offers access to broad views and a number of prospective campsites.

For its last three miles, the KP Trail climbs out of the canyon to offer more great views. Riparian vegetation is replaced by high desert plants including prickly pear, cholla, yucca and scrub oak as the trail leaves behind the sheltered environment of the canyon for dryer, more exposed surroundings. Higher ground also brings broader views of Sawed-Off Mountain as well as of KP Canyon. The vista widens to include Bear Mountain and the surrounding ridges of the Blue Range as the trail tops the ridge that separates KP and Steeple Creek Canyons.

Views stretching into New Mexico form a panorama at the KP Trail's end at the junction with Steeple Creek Trail # 73 atop the red, stony mesa.

### **Notes:**

No mechanized vehicles (including mountain bikes) are permitted in the Primitive Area.

### **Trail Log (in miles):**

- 0.0 KP Cienega Trailhead. Trail crosses meadow into the timber.
- 0.9 Trail crosses creek after two switchback descent.
- 2.7 Trail climbs out of canyon on north side.
- 2.9 Junction with North Fork of KP Trail # 93. Two waterfalls are directly downstream.
- 5.6 Junction with Blue Lookout Trail # 71.
- 6.5 Junction with McKittrick Trail # 72.
- 6.6 Trail crosses creek for the last time as it contours out of drainage bottom to the north.
- 9.4 Junction with Steeple Trail # 73 at a gate. Mud Springs Corral is 1/8 mile away in Steeple Canyon.

### **Access:**

Drive south from Alpine 28 miles on US 191 to the 1.3 mile road leading to KP Cienega Campground and the trailhead marked by a parking area and a kiosk.

The KP Trail is accessible via a number of trails, including the North Fork Trail # 93, the Blue Lookout Trail # 71, and the McKittrick Trail # 72, all of which provide additional access from US 191. The Steeple Trail # 73 offers access from either US 191 or the Blue River Road, Forest Road 281. The first three trails combine with KP Trail to provide strenuous but manageable day hikes. A Steeple Creek/KP Trail hike in one day would be long for most hikers at 17.2 miles.

# Long Cienega Trail # 305

56



Length: 3.3 miles

Rating: Strenuous

Use: Light to Moderate

Season: May through October

Elevation: 9,040 feet to 7,200 feet

USGS Maps: Strayhorse

## Description:

**\*\*NOTICE\*\*** - The Northwest portion of the Blue Range Primitive Area where this trail is located has been affected by the Wallow Fire of June 2011. The area is open to public use and entry - HOWEVER - some trails may not have been assessed or recently maintained for hazards associated with the fire, so plan your trip accordingly, and call the Alpine Ranger District for the latest information.

Please keep in mind that the area may be affected by the wildfire for many years to come, and continue to be prone to hazards such as falling trees, flooding and burned out stump holes. The environment you will be entering is highly susceptible to rainstorms and wind events. Any time you enter the forest, you should be aware of your environment and changing weather conditions.

*You are responsible for your own safety! Always look up, look down, and look all around.*

The Long Cienega Trail is NOT recommended for horse use.

A long, open meadow or cienega bordered by tall spruce, fir, and aspen trees invites you to explore this upland backcountry trail.

The moist environs of this pleasant forest grassland support a diverse community of wildflowers and provide a good place to see just about any species of wildlife that lives in the Blue Range uplands. Elk, mule deer, black bear, and other animals known to inhabit the Alpine District are seen here about as regularly as anywhere on the district.

As the trail and the small stream it follows leave Long Cienega for Grant Creek, the forest closes in and the streambed drops into a shallow but steadily deepening canyon. Moisture loving tree species cluster along the canyon floor to mark the completion of the transformation from upland meadow to canyon riparian area.

As the stream and trail continue their course toward Grant Creek, the canyon narrows even more and the trail becomes rough and rocky.

At 3 miles from the trailhead, the trail climbs to the top of a juniper studded bench of conglomerated bedrock and tops off the hike with an overlook of Grant Creek and beyond.

**Notes:**

The Long Cienega Trail is NOT recommended for horse use.

Grant Creek is a reliable source of water.

No mechanized vehicles (including mountain bikes) are permitted in the Primitive Area.

**Trail Log (in miles):**

- 0.0 Junction with Steeple Trail # 73 in Long Cienega.
- 2.8 Trail climbs out of drainage to the left.
- 3.0 High point of trail overlooking Grant Creek
- 3.3 Junction with Upper Grant Creek Trail # 65 (after a very steep descent).

**Access:**

Long Cienega Trail is accessible only via other backcountry trails. Steeple Trail # 73 leads to its upper end, and Upper Grant Creek # 65 and Grant Cabin Shortcut # 306 lead to its lower terminus.

For the most convenient access, drive south on US 191 to the south end Hannagan Meadow and turn left (east) to the Steeple/Foote Creek Trailhead. Take the Steeple Creek Trail # about 2.9 miles to Long Cienega Trailhead.

# McKittrick Trail # 72

58



Length: 5.9 miles

Rating: Strenuous

Use: Light

Season: May through October

Elevation: 9,266 feet to 6,560 feet (9,355 feet on Blue Peak spur trail)

USGS Maps: Strayhorse

## Description:

**\*\*NOTICE\*\*** - The Northwest portion of the Blue Range Primitive Area where this trail is located has been affected by the Wallow Fire of June 2011. The area is open to public use and entry - HOWEVER - some trails may not have been assessed or recently maintained for hazards associated with the fire, so plan your trip accordingly, and call the Alpine Ranger District for the latest information.

Please keep in mind that the area may be affected by the wildfire for many years to come, and continue to be prone to hazards such as falling trees, flooding and burned out stump holes. The environment you will be entering is highly susceptible to rainstorms and wind events. Any time you enter the forest, you should be aware of your environment and changing weather conditions.

*You are responsible for your own safety! Always look up, look down, and look all around.*

Excellent views, a variety of trailside habitats and close encounters with some of the most notable landmarks in the Blue Primitive area provide highlights for a hike along this unique trail.

Most trails in the Blue drop from the high country toward the river by either following drainages or staying with the ridges. McKittrick Trail breaks from this mold by cutting across several drainages and crossing a number of ridges in a steadily descending course to the bottom of KP Creek Canyon. The views you'll see at the high points along this trail are some of the best in the Blue.

McKittrick Trail passes near the summit of Blue Mountain in the vicinity of the former Blue Peak fire lookout, which is decommissioned and no longer in use. You'll want to walk those extra 100 yards to this highest point in the Blue Range at 9,355 feet to take in the outstanding views available there. The Blue Range, Blue River Canyon, Eagle Creek, Mount Graham of the Pinalenos, the Mogollon Range of the Gila Wilderness in New Mexico, and the canyon of the San Francisco River are just some of the features you can see from this vantage point.

From Blue Peak, McKittrick Trail heads east along the Mogollon Rim and the excellent views continue. Indian Peak, Rose Peak, and Red Mountain, along with other mountains and canyons to the south form the panorama. After dropping off Indian Mountain, the route cuts the drainages of a number of McKittrick Creek feeder streams. Trailside vegetation varies with altitude and exposure.

The next important landmark along the trail is Sawed Off Mountain. A saddle along its northwestern shoulder provides views down into KP Canyon and farther to the northeast.

### **Notes:**

No mechanized vehicles (including mountain bikes) are permitted in the Primitive Area.

### **Trail Log (in miles):**

- 0.0 Trailhead parking at end of Blue Lookout Road (Forest Road 184). The trail follows a long-closed road corridor
- 0.7 End of old road
- 0.8 Junction with Blue Lookout Trail # 71. McKittrick Trail continues toward Blue Peak summit.
- 1.3 McKittrick Trail turns 90 degrees to left about 100 yards below summit of Blue Peak
- 2.1 Trail leaves rim and enters McKittrick Creek drainage
- 3.9 Trail crosses gate on low ridge north of McKittrick Creek, good views of Sawed Off Mountain.
- 5.9 Trail terminus at junction with KP Trail # 70 at KP Creek

### **Access:**

Drive south from Alpine 29 miles on US 191 to Forest Road 184, the Blue Lookout Road. Drive east on this primitive road about 6.5 miles to the Blue Peak Trailhead.

# North Fork KP Trail # 93

60



Length: 2.4 miles

Rating: Moderate

Use: Light

Season: May through October

Elevation: 9,200 feet to 7,600 feet

USGS Maps: Strayhorse

## Description:

**\*\*NOTICE\*\*** - The Northwest portion of the Blue Range Primitive Area where this trail is located has been affected by the Wallow Fire of June 2011. The area is open to public use and entry - HOWEVER - some trails may not have been assessed or recently maintained for hazards associated with the fire, so plan your trip accordingly, and call the Alpine Ranger District for the latest information.

Please keep in mind that the area may be affected by the wildfire for many years to come, and continue to be prone to hazards such as falling trees, flooding and burned out stump holes. The environment you will be entering is highly susceptible to rainstorms and wind events. Any time you enter the forest, you should be aware of your environment and changing weather conditions.

*You are responsible for your own safety! Always look up, look down, and look all around.*

There are more reasons to hike this cool woodland trail than just because it offers an alternate, slightly shorter access route to the KP Trail at the bottom of KP Canyon. For one thing, it leads to one of the most scenic areas in the Blue Primitive Area, the confluence of the north and south forks of KP Creek.

This spot is marked by steep, rocky outcrops and a couple of ten foot waterfalls. You'll want to spend some time here, so remember to pack a picnic lunch along with your camera and bird book. Sheltered riparian areas with their diverse vegetation and accessible moisture attract a variety of colorful songbirds. The route to this beautiful little hideout is scenic in its own right.

The North Fork KP Trail quickly leaves the upland habitat of its origin for the confines of a deepening canyon and its well established streamside community of plants and animals. As the trail dives down the steep slopes of the North Fork drainage, it is highlighted by the lush green of box elders, sawtooth maple and healthy stands of poison ivy that cluster near the streambed.

Within a half mile of the confluence, the canyon of the South Fork comes into view and rocky outcrops give a hint of the canyon landscape that is up ahead. The North Fork Trail and the KP Trail join about ten yards upstream of the two waterfalls that mark the confluence in a beautiful spot that will have you looking for a place to sit down and enjoy the view, as you contemplate whether to continue downstream a bit before you decide which trail to take back to the high country.



**Notes:**

A loop hike via the KP Trail # 70 is an option if you set up a shuttle in KP Cienega or hike the 3.3 miles between the two trailheads.

No mechanized vehicles (including mountain bikes) are permitted in the Primitive area.

**Trail Log (in miles):**

- 0.0 Trailhead parking area which is shared with KP Rim Trailhead. Trail follows an old logging road for the first 0.7 miles
- 0.7 Trail leaves logging road
- 0.8 Trail switchbacks down to a creekside trail
- 1.5 Trail contours around a tributary coming in from the north
- 2.4 Junction with KP Trail # 70. There is a water fall just downstream

**Access:**

From Alpine, AZ drive south on US 191 about 25 miles to KP Rim Trailhead, marked with signs for Trails # 93/315.

The North Fork KP Trail is also accessible via the KP Trail # 70: From Alpine, AZ Drive 27 miles south on US Highway 191 past Hannagan Meadow Resort to a sign that points the way to KP Cienega. Turn east (left) onto the access road and drive 1.2 miles to KP Cienega Trailhead, just before the campground. Follow the KP Trail 2.9 miles to the junction with the North Fork KP Trail # 93.

# Paradise Trail # 74

62



Length: 4.2 miles

Rating: Moderate

Use: Moderate

Season: May through October

Elevation: 7,764 feet to 7,360 feet

USGS Maps: Beaverhead, Bear Mountain, Strayhorse

## Description:

**\*\*NOTICE\*\*** - The Northwest portion of the Blue Range Primitive Area where this trail is located has been affected by the Wallow Fire of June 2011. The area is open to public use and entry - HOWEVER - some trails may not have been assessed or recently maintained for hazards associated with the fire, so plan your trip accordingly, and call the Alpine Ranger District for the latest information.

Please keep in mind that the area may be affected by the wildfire for many years to come, and continue to be prone to hazards such as falling trees, flooding and burned out stump holes. The environment you will be entering is highly susceptible to rainstorms and wind events. Any time you enter the forest, you should be aware of your environment and changing weather conditions.

*You are responsible for your own safety! Always look up, look down, and look all around.*

Ponderosa rimmed mountain meadows, good views of Steeple Creek and Grant Creek, and access to a clear forest stream provide the major attractions for this trail. As you wander through the varied forest landscape, you'll also get a good look at several different habitats that form just part diversity for which the Blue Range is known.

Leaving Grant Creek, the trail passes near Moonshine Park, another green meadow shaded by ponderosa. Along this stretch, gaps in the trees along the trail provide good views of Steeple Creek and Grant Creek Canyons, as well as Bear Mountain to the east.

The trail then drops through stands of pinyon-juniper and scrub oak into Steeple Creek. Along this intermittent stream, riparian species include a good population of big-toothed maple. Though small and unassuming, those wispy saplings make Steeple Creek a colorful place to visit in the fall when the maples color the canyon's inner reaches with brilliant hues of pink and red.

**Notes:**

- No mechanized vehicles (including mountain bikes) are permitted in the Primitive Area

**Trail Log (in miles):**

- 0.0 Paradise Park, a ponderosa pine flat
- 0.5 Contours around a pine and fern basin
- 1.7 Crosses Grant Creek. Junction with Upper Grant Creek Trail #65
- 2.2 Passes 150 yards to the east of Moonshine Park
- 4.2 Junction with Steeple Trail #73

**Access:**

Paradise Trail is only accessible via backcountry from Grant Creek Trail #75, Upper Grant Creek Trail #65 and Steeple Trail #73.

For most direct access: From Alpine, AZ, Follow US 191 south for 20 miles to the P-Bar Lake trailhead on the left (east) side of the highway marked by a sign for Trail # 326. Follow the P-Bar Lake Trail # 326 for 0.6 mile to the junction with Foote Creek Trail # 76. Turn left (south) to follow Foote Creek Trail # 76 another 0.6 mile past P-Bar Lake to the junction with Grant Creek Trail # 75. Follow Grant Creek Trail # 75.

## P-Bar Lake Trail # 326

64



Length: 0.6 miles

Rating: Moderate

Use: Moderate

Season: May through October

Elevation: 8,600 to 8,660 feet

USGS Maps: Hannagan Meadow

### Description:

**\*\*NOTICE\*\*** - The Northwest portion of the Blue Range Primitive Area where this trail is located has been affected by the Wallow Fire of June 2011. The area is open to public use and entry - HOWEVER – some trails may not have been assessed or recently maintained for hazards associated with the fire, so plan your trip accordingly, and call the Alpine Ranger District for the latest information.

Please keep in mind that the area may be affected by the wildfire for many years to come, and continue to be prone to hazards such as falling trees, flooding and burned out stump holes. The environment you will be entering is highly susceptible to rainstorms and wind events. Any time you enter the forest, you should be aware of your environment and changing weather conditions.

*You are responsible for your own safety! Always look up, look down, and look all around.*

This is a relatively short trail at only 0.6 miles long, beginning at the P-Bar Lake Trailhead and ending at a junction with Foote Creek Trail # 76.

P-Bar Lake Trail # 326 provides access into the north-western portion of the Blue Range Primitive Area. This is a shorter, though steeper, access to the P-Bar Lake and Paradise Park area.

It also provides for a relatively short day-hike of 2.2 miles round-trip to P-Bar Lake and back to the trailhead.

**Notes:**

No mechanized vehicles (including mountain bikes) are permitted in the Primitive Area.

**Trail Log (in miles):**

- 0.0 Trailhead on Highway US 191, trail climbs steeply onto the ridge
- .6 Junction with Foote Creek Trail # 76

**By continuing south on Foote Creek Trail # 76:**

- 1.1 P-Bar Lake
- 1.2 Junction with Grant Creek Trail # 75

**Access:**

From Alpine, AZ: Follow US 191 south for exactly 20 miles, the trailhead is on the left (east) side of the highway, and marked by a sign for Trail # 326.

## Red Hill Trail # 56

66



Length: 7.4 miles

Rating: Strenuous

Use: Moderate

Season: May through October

Elevation: 8,000 to 5,790 feet

USGS Maps: Beaverhead, Maness

### Description:

**\*\*NOTICE\*\*** - The Northwest portion of the Blue Range Primitive Area where this trail is located has been affected by the Wallow Fire of June 2011. The area is open to public use and entry - HOWEVER – some trails may not have been assessed or recently maintained for hazards associated with the fire, so plan your trip accordingly, and call the Alpine Ranger District for the latest information.

Please keep in mind that the area may be affected by the wildfire for many years to come, and continue to be prone to hazards such as falling trees, flooding and burned out stump holes. The environment you will be entering is highly susceptible to rainstorms and wind events. Any time you enter the forest, you should be aware of your environment and changing weather conditions.

*You are responsible for your own safety! Always look up, look down, and look all around.*

The Red Hill Trail # 56 is 7.4 miles long, beginning at the Red Hill Trailhead and ending at a junction with Tutt Creek Trail # 105. Good views of Castle Rock, the Devil's Washboard area, and a number of other prominent landmarks of the Blue Range Primitive Area are the payoff for hiking this trail.

The Primitive Area boundary is only a short distance from the trailhead, and once inside its protective confines you'll be in an undisturbed stand of ponderosa pines and various species of junipers.

The trail sets a course of alternately dropping down steep slopes then crossing broad benches as it follows a stair step course to Blue River Canyon. Along this natural staircase it offers good views of a number of other landmarks in addition to those already mentioned. Bring along a forest map to help you recognize Bear Mountain and Whiterock Mountain across the Blue River. To the north, the sheer cliffs of Red Bluff tower of the Red Hill Road. To the south, the deep canyon Foote Creek has cut all the way to the Blue stands out as the most prominent drainage.

Providing a point of interest closer at hand, mistletoe and other plant parasites have caused some of the alligator juniper trees along the trail to grow into grotesquely gnarled shapes. A few of these have been placed across the trail as waterbars, making them easier to see.

Continuing down the staircase, the trail continues to offer good views of the Blue River Canyon as it crosses the top of Red Hill before dropping back into Bush Creek. You may or may not find water in this small stream, since it flows only intermittently. The trail follows the

Bush Creek drainage until it joins the Tutt Creek Trail # 105 for the last mile or two of the journey to the Tutt Creek Trailhead and trail's end at the Red Hill Road, Forest Road # 567.

**Notes:**

- No mechanized vehicles (including mountain bikes) are permitted in the Primitive Area.

**Trail Log (in miles):**

- 0.0 Trailhead off of Forest Road 567.
- 0.5 Trail passes through gate which marks the primitive area boundary and descends a series of exposed, dry ledges
- 5.9 Trail meets with Bush Creek
- 6.7 Trail joins an old road corridor on the north side of Bush Creek
- 7.0 Round juniper-post corral (an unmaintained spur trail leads to Tutt Creek)
- 7.4 Junction with Blue Lookout Trail #71 (The ruins of Blue Cabin are just downhill of this junction.

**Access:**

From Alpine, AZ travel south on US 191 for 14.2 miles, then turn left (east) on FR 567 and proceed 1.1 mile, and turn right (south) onto FR 567B, identified with a sign to Trail # 56. Proceed .4 mile to the Red Hill Trailhead.

# Steeple Mesa Trail # 73

68



Length: 13.2 miles

Rating: Strenuous

Use: Moderate

Season: May through October

Elevation: 9200 feet to 5280 feet

USGS Maps: Hannagan Meadow, Strayhorse, Bear Mountain

## Description:

**\*\*NOTICE\*\*** - The Northwest portion of the Blue Range Primitive Area where this trail is located has been affected by the Wallow Fire of June 2011. The area is open to public use and entry - HOWEVER - some trails may not have been assessed or recently maintained for hazards associated with the fire, so plan your trip accordingly, and call the Alpine Ranger District for the latest information.

Please keep in mind that the area may be affected by the wildfire for many years to come, and continue to be prone to hazards such as falling trees, flooding and burned out stump holes. The environment you will be entering is highly susceptible to rainstorms and wind events. Any time you enter the forest, you should be aware of your environment and changing weather conditions.

*You are responsible for your own safety! Always look up, look down, and look all around.*

Once you complete the full 13 miles of this trail you'll have an excellent idea of just how broad a diversity of habitats there are to be found on the Alpine Ranger District and the Blue Range Primitive Area.

For the first couple of miles this trail stays in the high country, winding its way through stands of mixed conifers and aspens. These thick stands of old growth open regularly into beautiful, boggy little meadows called cienegas, which are invariably aglow with wildflowers and frequently boast a small stream. Such quiet hideaways are great places to surprise a herd of grazing elk or browsing mule deer as you emerge from the quiet shadows of the trees. If you're lucky, you may even surprise one of the forest's most reclusive inhabitants, a black bear. There are few better places on the Alpine District for a close encounter of this kind.

After crossing the upper reaches of the Grant Creek drainage and passing junctions with the Upper Grant Creek Trail # 65 and Long Cienega Trail # 305, the trail drops into Steeple Creek where the habitat changes from aspen/conifer to a riparian community of ponderosa pine, canyon hardwoods and scattered junipers.

At Mud Springs, the trail climbs out of the drainage to the south to a junction with the KP Trail # 90. Conditions become progressively drier and warmer as the trail continues on across Steeple and KP mesas and loses elevation on its descent to the Blue River. Clumps of cactus here, scattered under a pinion and juniper overstory, make the point that you have entered desert woodland.



The trail continues on to the shady cottonwoods and picturesque rock formations of the Blue River Canyon and ends at the Blue River Road.

### **Notes:**

Water is usually available at Willow Springs, Mud Springs and intermittent pools along Steeple Creek.

No mechanized vehicles (including mountain bikes) are permitted in the Primitive Area.

### **Trail Log (in miles):**

- 0.0 Steeple/Foote Creek Trailhead parking area, trail crosses through wood rail fence and turns to the right (north)
- 1.3 Junction with Upper Grant Trail # 65 in the first of four cienegas
- 2.8 Junction with the Long Cienega Trail # 305
- 3.3 Junction with KP Rim Trail # 315
- 6.4 Junction with Paradise Trail # 74

### **Access:**

Drive 23 miles south on US 191 to the south end of Hannagan Meadow and turn left (east) on Forest Road 29A to the Steeple/Foote Creek trailhead.

For access along the Blue River: drive 3 miles east of Alpine on US 180 to Forest Road 281 (Blue River Road). Turn south and follow this scenic back road 30.0 miles to the Blue River Road access to Steeple Trail.

Steeple Trail is also accessible via the Upper Grant Creek Trail # 65, Long Cienega Trail # 305, KP Rim Trail # 70, and Paradise Trail # 74.

# Tutt Creek Trail # 105

70



Length: 4.2 miles

Rating: Moderate

Use: Moderate

Season: Year round

Elevation: 6,600 feet to 5,800 feet

USGS Maps: Maness Peak

## Description:

**\*\*NOTICE\*\*** - The Northwest portion of the Blue Range Primitive Area where this trail is located has been affected by the Wallow Fire of June 2011. The area is open to public use and entry - HOWEVER - some trails may not have been assessed or recently maintained for hazards associated with the fire, so plan your trip accordingly, and call the Alpine Ranger District for the latest information.

Please keep in mind that the area may be affected by the wildfire for many years to come, and continue to be prone to hazards such as falling trees, flooding and burned out stump holes. The environment you will be entering is highly susceptible to rainstorms and wind events. Any time you enter the forest, you should be aware of your environment and changing weather conditions.

*You are responsible for your own safety! Always look up, look down, and look all around.*

Here's a scenic trail that starts out from the bottom of the Blue instead of from the top. Actually, you can hike any of the rim-to-river Blue

Trails from the canyon floor as well as from the rim, but this one is made for it. Starting out at the bottom means you're in a desert environment right from the beginning.

A good part of this trail is actually in a riparian or streamside habitat rather than a desert. Here you'll find narrowleaf cottonwood and a few well-off old ponderosa rather than cactus. Even when the trail climbs a saddle or follows a ridge, it's not in the same type of desert most people think of when they think of Arizona -- no saguaros, but you may see a road runner.

On the lower hillsides and ridges of the Blue, the most noticeable vegetation is juniper trees. Look underneath them and in the exposed areas on dry hillsides and you will see some cacti, mostly prickly pear and an occasional cholla. You'll also see wildflowers. Desert wildflowers are best in the spring. Look for various kinds of paintbrush and prickly pappies. There are a number of different kinds of hedgehog cacti here too; with some of the brightest blooms you'll see anywhere. Watch for movement among the rocks; this area is home to a herd of Rocky Mountain Bighorn sheep.

On the ridge between Tutt and Foote Creeks you'll get some big, broad views of the Blue Range and the canyon it shelters before you drop down into Foote Creek Canyon and trail's end at its junction with the Foote Creek Trail # 76. At this point, if you've set up a shuttle, you can head down the Foote Creek Trail to the Blue River or head upstream on toward the canyon rim roughly 11 miles and 3,000 vertical feet away.

**Notes:**

Cleveland Spring and the various creeks in the area provide water suitable for stock animals only, unless it's filtered or treated

No mechanized vehicles (including mountain bikes) are permitted in the Primitive area

**Trail Log (in miles):**

- 0.0 Junction with Red Hill road, Forest Road 567
- 0.8 Follow jeep trail to the junction with Bush Creek. Trail crosses Bush Creek at this point and enters mouth of Tutt Creek
- 2.1 The trail leaves Tutt Creek and ascends a ridge to the left
- 3.2 Crosses saddle on ridge. Old wood stock feeder station on right
- 3.4 Cleveland Spring, developed as a livestock water source
- 4.2 Junction with Foote Creek Trail #76 at old wooden corral

**Access:**

Drive 14.5 miles south along US 191 to Forest Road 567 (Red Hill Road). Turn east and follow this very scenic back road 11 miles as it descends to a jeep road that branches to the right. This junction is about 1/2 mile before you reach the Blue River. In winter take the Blue River Road (Forest Road 281) to Forest Road 567 and turn right 1/2 mile to the jeep road.

# Upper Grant Creek Trail # 65

72



Length: 4 miles

Rating: Strenuous

Use: Moderate

Season: May through October

Elevation: 8,720 to 7,120 feet

USGS Maps: Hannagan Meadow, Strayhorse

## Description:

**\*\*NOTICE\*\*** - The Northwest portion of the Blue Range Primitive Area where this trail is located has been affected by the Wallow Fire of June 2011. The area is open to public use and entry - HOWEVER - some trails may not have been assessed or recently maintained for hazards associated with the fire, so plan your trip accordingly, and call the Alpine Ranger District for the latest information.

Please keep in mind that the area may be affected by the wildfire for many years to come, and continue to be prone to hazards such as falling trees, flooding and burned out stump holes. The environment you will be entering is highly susceptible to rainstorms and wind events. Any time you enter the forest, you should be aware of your environment and changing weather conditions.

*You are responsible for your own safety! Always look up, look down, and look all around.*

This upland trail provides rugged access to a picture perfect land of wildflower dotted meadows and tall trees. One of its most attractive features is that it opens up so many possibilities for loop hikes, most of which can be covered in a day. Other Forest trails accessible via Upper Grant Creek include Steeple Trail #73, Long Cienega #305, Grant Creek Trail #75, Paradise Trail #74 and Grant Cabin Shortcut #306. With a little creative path finding, you can turn this network of trails into a number of varied and enjoyable day hikes.

Upper Grant Creek Trail is accessible via any one of the above trails, but the shortest route is via Steeple Creek Trail from the Hannagan Meadow Trailhead. A 1.3 mile stroll through stands of tall conifer, alternating with small hidden meadows, brings you to the beginning of Upper Grant Creek Trail # 65 in the middle of one of the larger meadows or cienegas in the area. From this access point, the trail follows the course of Grant Creek as it drops into a steep, narrow canyon shaded by a canopy of Douglas-fir and aspen. The trail crisscrosses the tumbling brook that steadily increases in volume as it drops toward its confluence with the Blue. This section of the trail is not recommended for horses.

Hikers stand a very good chance of seeing wildlife in this area. In addition to elk and mule deer, black bears are regularly seen grubbing through the blow-downs. If you do happen to run across one of these big but shy creatures, the encounter will most likely be brief. Wild bears make a business of keeping a very low profile.

At 3.5 miles into the hike you'll come onto an old cabin and corral site in years past, some copper equipment suspected to have been used for moonshining was recovered from this site.

### **Notes:**

Recommended ONLY for experienced mountain horses or pack trains. No mechanized vehicles (including mountain bikes) are permitted in the Primitive Area.

### **Trail Log (in miles):**

- 0.0 Trail begins at junction with Steeple Trail # 73 in a small cienega (wet meadow) about 1.3 miles from Hannagan Trailhead.
- 2.2 Tributary drainage from north crosses trail. Ranchers call it Slide Canyon as horse needs to slide down it in spots.
- 3.2 Another tributary drainage from the north. Ranchers call this one Scoot Canyon as horse needs to scoot down it.
- 3.5 Moonshiner's cabin and corral.
- 3.6 Junction with Grant Cabin Trail # 306 which connects to Grant Creek Trail # 75.
- 3.8 Junction with Long Cienega Trail # 305 which connects to Steeple Trail # 73.
- 4.0 Trail terminus. Junction with Paradise Trail # 74.

### **Access:**

Upper Grant Creek Trail # 65 is accessible only via other backcountry trails. Steeple Trail # 73 connects to its upper trailhead and the Paradise Trail # leads to its lower trailhead. For the most convenient access, drive south on US 191 to the south end Hannagan Meadow and turn left (east) to the Steeple Trailhead. Hike this trail 1.3 mile to Upper Grant Creek Trail.

## Part 3: Blue Range Primitive Area South Trails -

### Clifton Ranger District

AD Bar Trail # 14 .....	75
Bear Valley Trail # 55 .....	76
Hagan Corral Trail # 31 .....	78
Horse Canyon Trail # 36.....	79
Lengthy Trail # 89.....	80
Little Blue Creek Trail # 41 .....	81
Raspberry Trail # 35.....	83
Red Mountain Trail # 25 .....	84
Strayhorse Canyon Trail # 20 .....	85

### Contact information:

Clifton Ranger District  
 Apache-Sitgreaves National Forests  
 397240 AZ 75  
 Duncan, AZ 85534  
 Voice: (928) 687-8600  
 TTY: (928) 687-1807

# AD Bar Trail #14



Length: 12 miles

Difficulty Level: Moderate

Usage: Light

Season: April-December

Elevation: 4,700 feet to 7,000 feet

USGS Maps: Rose Peak, Dutch Blue Creek

## Description:

This trail offers a variety of terrain and vegetation. As you leave the ponderosa pines near the top you enter the pinyon pine and juniper zone. Other types of vegetation include narrow leaf cottonwood, alder, Arizona black walnut, Gambel oak, wild grape, mesquite, acacia, and cactus.

Carry plenty of water and treat any water you find before drinking.

## Trail Log (in miles):

- 0.0 Trailhead on Highway 191
- 3.0 AD Bar Ranch
- 4.6 Junction with Trail #547
- 8.8 Junction with Trail #342 and VT Ranch
- 12.0 HU Bar Ranch and Blue River

## Access:

From Clifton, AZ: Take Highway US 191 North 41 miles.

Alpine, AZ: Take Highway US 191 South 52.9 miles.

Parking is on the west side of the highway but the trailhead is on the east side.

# Bear Valley Trail # 55

76



Length: 12.1 miles

Difficulty Level: Moderate

Use: Light

Season: May-December

Elevation: 4,800 feet - 7,600 feet

USGS Maps: Alma Mesa and Blue

This trail is also known as Cow Flat Trail # 55 on the part which traverses the Alpine Ranger District (see Part 1- Blue Range Primitive Area Northeast Trails)

## Description:

The Bear Valley Trail starts at the junction of Trail # 23 near Bonanza Bill Flat and stays relatively level as it crosses Cow Flat until it drops into the canyon near Franz Spring. There is a spring and a line cabin used by the grazing permit holder in his operation and it is a good port in a storm for hikers.

The trail climbs out of the canyon here and crosses Campbell Flat to the edge of the Mogollon Rim where it descends into Bear Valley. As it crosses Bear Valley you can observe the effects of a forest fire that burned in 1993.

As the trail climbs out of Bear Valley be sure to watch for trail blazes on trees and rock cairns as the trail can become indistinct from here to the Blue River.

The portion of trail to Auger Tank is rough and may require some routefinding skills. At Auger Tank there is a tendency to follow the drainage but that is not the trail so look for the trail to leave the drainage to the west and keep alert for blazes and cairns.

The trail drops into Sycamore Canyon where there is an old, dilapidated corral and then climbs out of the canyon to Ladron Spring, a reliable water source. From here the trail descends to the Blue River over a narrow chute that is marked by several small waterfalls.

## Notes:

This trail will require good route-finding skills from Bear Valley to the Blue River.

No mechanized vehicles (including mountain bikes) are permitted in the Primitive Area.



### **Trail Log (in miles):**

- 0.0 Junction with Bonanza Bill Trail # 23 at Bonanza Flat
- 0.7 Junction with S Canyon Trail # 53
- 1.2 Junction with Franz Spring Trail # 43
- 1.4 Junction with Lanphier Trail # 52
- 1.6 Junction with shortcut trail to Franz Spring
- 3.6 Junction with WS Lake Trail #54
- 5.2 Junction with Little Blue Trail #41 at the corral
- 5.3 Remains of Bear Valley Cabin
- 5.4 Trail heads west out of Bear Valley
- 6.4 High point on trail at junction with an un-maintained trail to Little Blue Creek
- 8.9 Rock cairn marks un-maintained trail to the south to Winter Cabin
- 9.9 Auger Canyon
- 11.1 Sycamore Cabin at old corral
- 11.6 Ladron Spring
- 12.1 Blue River

### **Access:**

Backcountry access only via Trail Bonanza Bill Trail # 23, S Canyon Trail # 53, Franz Spring Trail # 43, and Lanphier Trail # 52 - see guides for these trails for more information.

# Hagan Corral Trail #31

78



Length: 3.1 miles

Rating: Difficult

Use: Light

Season: April through December

Elevation: 5,700 to 7,200 feet

USGS Maps: Rose Peak ,Strayhorse

## Description:

This trail from the trailhead at Highway 191 to the bottom of the drainage is extremely steep for the last 1/2 mile, and then it drops into the riparian area. The trail ends at Hagan Corral at Strayhorse Canyon. This a short trail that begins at 7,200 feet and joins Strayhorse Trail #20 in about 3 miles at an elevation of 5,700 feet. This trail is rather rocky but well defined.

## Restrictions:

Although this trail is outside the Blue Range Primitive Area, it is managed to wilderness standards - No motorized/mechanized vehicles are permitted.

## Trail Log (in miles):

- 0.0 Trailhead on US 191, the trail begins in SE corner of Section 22.
- 2.4 Fence and gate
- 3.1 Junction with Strayhorse Trail #20 about a mile upstream from the junction of Trail #89 and #20.

## Access:

From Clifton, AZ: Highway US 191 North for 55.6 miles

From Alpine, AZ: Highway US 191 South for 38.4 miles

Trailhead for Trail #31 is located on the east side of the highway

# Horse Canyon Trail # 36



Length: 11.3 miles

Rating: Difficult

Use: Light

Season: April through December

Elevation: 4,400 feet to 8,000 feet

USGS Maps: Fritz Canyon, Maple Peak

## Trail notes:

Only the last section of Horse Canyon Trail # 36 beyond Maple Peak and after the junction with trail # 307 is within the Blue Range Primitive Area.

## Description:

This trail starts on the Blue River Trail # 101 about 3 miles upstream from XXX Ranch. Next you will arrive at Horse Canyon Cabin and beyond that, there are high ridges both to the north and the south. This trail accesses Trail #7, Bullard Peak, Maple Peak, Charlie Moore Mountain, and ends at the junction with Trail #310.

## Access:

This trail begins about three miles up-stream from the XXX Ranch on the Blue River Trail # 101 on the Clifton Ranger District.

From Clifton, AZ – Drive north for 30 miles on US 191 to Juan Miller Road, Forest Road 475. Take Juan Miller Road FR 475 east for 12 miles, then turn left (north) onto XXX Ranch Road for 3 miles.

From Alpine, AZ - Drive south for 64 miles on US 191 to Juan Miller Road, Forest Road 475. Take Juan Miller Road FR 475 east for 12 miles, then turn left (north) onto XXX Ranch Road for 3 miles.

# Lengthy Trail # 89

80



Length: 3.3 miles

Rating: Difficult

Use: Light

Season: April through December

Elevation: 5,500 feet to 7,200 feet

USGS Maps: Strayhorse, Rose Peak

## Description:

This trail passes through ponderosa pine and oak forest and enters the Blue Range Primitive Area. It drops over 300 feet in elevation from the highway in the first 1/3 mile as it follows a canyon to its junction with Strayhorse Creek.

## Restrictions:

Motorized vehicles (including bicycles) are not permitted in the Blue Range Primitive area.

## Trail Log (in miles):

- 0.0 US 191. Elevation: 7200 feet. Ponderosa-oak forest
- 0.3 This trail drops 300 to 400 feet in one third of a mile
- 0.4 Seep
- 1.1 Fence and gate. Trail follows canyon bottom for 1 1/2 miles
- 2.6 Trail still follows canyon contours but rises from the bottom of the canyon
- 2.8 Canyon bottom again
- 3.3 Trail ends as it joins Trail #20 in the center of Section 30. Elevation: 5500 feet

## Access:

From Clifton, AZ – Take Highway US 191 North for 58 miles.

From Alpine, AZ – Take Highway US 191 South for 36 miles.

Trail is located on the east side of US 191.

# Little Blue Creek Trail #41



Length: 10.7 miles

Rating: Moderate

Usage: Medium

Season: April through December

Elevation: 6,000 to 6,800 feet USGS Maps: Blue, AZ

## Description:

This trail starts on Alma Mesa at the Arizona-New Mexico state line. The upper end of Alma Mesa is very open with spectacular 360-degree views. About a mile from the trailhead you will pass a grazing permit holder cabin called either Stateline or Alma Mesa Cabin.

After traveling about 8.5 miles you exit the narrow canyon and reach Bear Valley. This is a popular campsite with a corral and good spring water. Remains of an old cabin are nearby and signs of pre-historic use can also be found. Visitors are asked to look but not touch the artifacts.

About 2 miles after the trail leaves Bear Valley it begins to climb steeply through some rocky switchbacks to the top of the Mogollon Rim. At this point you can see the trail junction with the WS Lake Trail # 54. Just west of here a steep climb to the fire lookout on Bear Mountain can be very rewarding with excellent views. The trail ends at the junction with the Largo Trail # 51.

## Trail Log (in miles):

- 0.0 New Mexico state line fence and gate
- 1.0 Stateline cabin, well and corral
- 4.0 Steady climb to 6800 feet
- 5.5 Junction with Yam Canyon and Little Blue Creek
- 7.0 Canyon forks; fence and gate
- 7.9 Junction with Bear Valley Trail # 55. Entering Bear Valley
- 10.2 Trail leaves Little Blue Creek
- 10.4 Fence and gate
- 10.7 Junction with WS Lake Trail # 54 in Alpine Ranger District

## Notes:

No mechanized vehicles (including mountain bikes) are permitted in the Primitive Area.

### Access:

#### HIGH CLEARANCE FOUR WHEEL DRIVE VEHICLES

RECCOMEDED. Contact the Clifton Ranger District for current road status before driving this route. Take US Highway 180 to the town of Alma, New Mexico. Turn west at the Alma Mesa Road, Forest Road 104. This will be just north of the bridge. Upon crossing the river (do not cross when flooded), take Forest Road 104 to the right up the river bottom. It will eventually turn west toward Alma Mesa and a junction with Forest Road 711. Continue west on FR 711 until it approaches and then parallels the fence. The trail starts near here at a walk-through gate.

United States  
Department of  
Agriculture



NATIONAL  
AGRICULTURAL  
LIBRARY

Advancing Access to  
Global Information for  
Agriculture

# Raspberry Trail # 35



Length: 9.2 miles

Difficulty Level: Moderate

Use: Light

Season: April through September

Elevation: 5,100 to 7,600 feet

USGS Maps: Rose Peak

## Description:

Ponderosa pine and other conifers are prominent at the highest elevations. As Raspberry Trail drops 2500 feet to the Blue River, the mixed conifers remain but thin out while oak and juniper predominate. At the river level, cottonwood and sycamore are common as well as many species of brush.

Geological Note: Movement on the east-west Strayhorse Fault has depressed the country on the south nearly 2000 feet in reference to that on the north (Mogollon Rim).

## Notes:

No motorized travel permitted (including mountain bikes) in the Blue Primitive Area.

## Trail Log (in miles):

- 0.2 From Strayhorse Campground to beginning of the trail.
- 2.4 From the start of the trail to Raspberry Creek.
- 6.6 Distance from Raspberry Creek to the end of the trail at the Blue River.
- 9.2 Miles is the total trail length.

## Access:

The trailhead is located near Strayhorse Campground, 26 miles south of Alpine on US 191.

# Red Mountain Trail #25



Length: 7 miles

Rating: Difficult

Use: Light

Best Season: April through December

Elevation: 6,800 to 8,000 feet

USGS Maps: Rose Peak

## Description:

Rose Peak Lookout tower, elevation 8700 feet, is plainly visible to the west from the top of Red Mountain at the end of the trail.

During the summer months, it has been quite common in the past to find millions of ladybugs at high elevations.

In the fall (October) the foliage at the top of the trail can be quite colorful. A small stand of flaming red maple leaves joins the oak and a few aspen to make a fine display.

## Trail Log (in miles):

- Trail begins in a forest of pines and oak and drops 1000' in about two miles where there are fewer tall trees and mostly brush.
- Junction Trail #32
- 3.8 Do Nothing Spring
- 4.0 Switchbacks go up to about 7350 feet. Follow ridge to top of mountain.
- 7.0 Top of Red Mountain at about 8000 feet

## Access:

From Clifton, AZ: Take US 191 North for 47.8 miles -

From Alpine, AZ: Take US 191 South for 46.4 miles -

Then, From the Rose Peak turnoff on Highway US 191, follow the old road around the north side of the picnic table for about a mile to the beginning of the trail.



# Strayhorse Canyon Trail #20



Length: 9.2 miles

Difficulty Level: Moderate

Use: Light

Best Season: April through December

Elevation: 8,200 feet maximum elevation

USGS Maps: Rose Peak

## Description:

A popular route to the Blue River, Strayhorse Canyon Trail #20 starts near Rose Peak Lookout.

The trail enters the Blue Range Primitive Area just after you leave the information Kiosk.

The trail begins in mixed conifer and ponderosa pine forest, but the vegetation gradually transitions to pinion and juniper forest as you descend in elevation towards Blue River.

About 0.5 miles down the trail you pass an abandoned cabin; this was the home for early fire lookouts at Rose Peak some 50 years ago.

Just off the trail to the east of the junction with Lengthy Trail #89 you will see the remains of another old cabin known as Strayhorse Cabin.

Exploratory mining took place near the bottom of the trail. These drill holes were not capped and you can hear water running in them if you listen carefully.

Be sure to bring adequate drinking water, and treat any water you find before drinking.

## Trail Log (in miles):

- 0.0 Trailhead at US Highway 191
- 1.4 Strayhorse Spring
- 7.0 Junction with Hagan Trail # 31
- 8.0 Junction at Lengthy Trail #89
- 9.4 End of trail at Blue River

## Access:

To the Rose Peak Turnoff on US 191:

From Clifton, AZ: Take US 191 North for 47.8 miles -

From Alpine, AZ: Take US 191 South for 46.4 miles -

## For More Information . . .

about Blue Range Primitive Area trails and other recreation opportunities on  
National Forest System lands, contact:

### **Alpine Ranger District**

#### **Apache-Sitgreaves National Forests**

P.O. Box 469 (mailing address)

42634 Hwy. 180/191 (physical address)

Alpine, AZ 85920

Voice: (928) 339-5000

TTY: (928) 339-4566

### **Clifton Ranger District**

#### **Apache-Sitgreaves National Forests**

397240 AZ 75

Duncan, AZ 85534

Voice: (928) 687-8600

TTY: (928) 687-1807



### **Apache-Sitgreaves**

#### **National Forests**

#### **Supervisor's Office**

30 South Chiricahua Drive

P.O. Box 640

Springerville, AZ 85938

Voice: (928) 333-4301

TTY: (928) 333-6292

In accordance with Federal civil rights law and U.S. Department of Agriculture (USDA) civil rights regulations and policies, the USDA, its Agencies, offices, and employees, and institutions participating in or administering USDA programs are prohibited from discriminating based on race, color, national origin, religion, sex, gender identity (including gender expression), sexual orientation, disability, age, marital status, family/parental status, income derived from a public assistance program, political beliefs, or reprisal or retaliation for prior civil rights activity, in any program or activity conducted or funded by USDA (not all bases apply to all programs). Remedies and complaint filing deadlines vary by program or incident.

Persons with disabilities who require alternative means of communication for program information (e.g., Braille, large print, audiotape, American Sign Language, etc.) should contact the responsible Agency or USDA's TARGET Center at (202) 720-2600 (voice and TTY) or contact USDA through the Federal Relay Service at (800) 877-8339. Additionally, program information may be made available in languages other than English.

To file a program discrimination complaint, complete the USDA Program Discrimination Complaint Form, AD-3027, found online at [http://www.ascr.usda.gov/complaint\\_filing\\_cust.html](http://www.ascr.usda.gov/complaint_filing_cust.html) and at any USDA office or write a letter addressed to USDA and provide in the letter all of the information requested in the form. To request a copy of the complaint form, call (866) 632-9992. Submit your completed form or letter to USDA by: (1) mail: U.S. Department of Agriculture, Office of the Assistant Secretary for Civil Rights, 1400 Independence Avenue, SW, Washington, D.C. 20250-9410; (2) fax: (202) 690-7442; or (3) email: [program.intake@usda.gov](mailto:program.intake@usda.gov).

USDA is an equal opportunity provider, employer and lender.